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National Meeting 4-5 November 2026 University of Queensland

St Lucia Campus, 280-284 Sir Fred Schonell Dr, St Lucia QLD 4067

Wednesday November 4 – [Andrew N. Liveris Building – Combined Collaborative Space – 46-242/243](#)

Thursday November 5 – [ModWest – Collaborative – 11A-130](#)

Day 1: Wednesday November 4th

8:30 am	Registration	
9.00 am	Welcome & Overview	Professor Louise Sharpe, Pro Vice-Chancellor (Researcher Training) University of Sydney & ACGR President
	Welcome to Country	TBC
9.15 am	Welcome and introduction from University of Queensland	Professor Sue Harrison, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research and Innovation), University of Queensland
	Session 1 – The Future of Research Training in Australia – What’s next for the PhD? Q&A Panel (virtual) Chair: Professor Louise Sharpe	
9.30 am	Bringing together leading voices from across Australia’s higher education sector, this panel will explore what the future holds for the PhD and research training in Australia. The discussion will consider how doctoral education must evolve to meet Australia’s changing research, workforce and societal needs, and how we can best prepare the next generation of researchers for diverse careers and impact.	Professor Barney Glover AO, Chief Commissioner, Australian Tertiary Education Commission Emeritus Professor Mary O’Kane AC, Chancellor, University of Queensland Luke Sheehy, CEO, Universities Australia
10.30 am	Morning Tea	
	Session 2 – Implementing the ACGR Good Practice Guidelines for Supporting Neurodivergent HDR Candidates Chair: Professor Charlotte Brownlow	
11.00 am	This session will explore how the AGCR Good Practice Guidelines for Supporting Neurodivergent HDR Candidates can be implemented. It will consider how interventions can be leveraged for maximum impact to appropriately support candidates and supervisors.	Professor Charlotte Brownlow, Dean Graduate Research School, UniSQ Jillian Blacker, HDR Client Services Manager, QUT
12.30 pm	Lunch	
	Session 3 –Rethinking the Doctoral Oral Examination: Integrity, Inclusion and Innovation in the Age of AI Chair: Professor Susan Kinnear	
1.15 pm	As graduate schools grapple with the implications of AI, questions are emerging about how best to assess doctoral students' intellectual ownership, scholarly judgement, and research contribution. This	Professor Tracy Riley, Dean Postgraduate Research, Massey University

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	interactive workshop explores the role of oral examinations in contemporary doctoral assessment, drawing on New Zealand's experience with oral examinations as a standard component of doctoral assessment. We will examine the opportunities and challenges oral examinations present for research integrity, creative practice doctorates, culturally responsive assessment, and equitable outcomes for diverse doctoral students. Through discussion and case studies, we will consider whether oral examinations represent a traditional practice or an increasingly important feature of future doctoral assessment.	
2.15 pm	Session 4 - At the interface: Navigating Difficult Behaviours in Graduate Research Support Chair: Dr Doreen Krumbeigel	
	This session will examine common patterns of difficult behaviour directed toward graduate research support staff and discuss constructive approaches to managing conflict, unrealistic demands, and communication breakdowns while protecting staff, working relationships and maintaining effective service delivery.	Alison Pike, Graduate Research School, University of Queensland Edwina Grose, Director Graduate Research School, University of Sydney Jasmine Jury, Associate Director Graduate Research School, Australian National University Kristy Bensley, Director Graduate Research Centre, Queensland University of Technology Rebecca Lubansky, Senior Manager Graduate and Global Research, La Trobe University
3.15 pm	Afternoon tea	
3.30 pm	Session 5 – Pathways to a PhD: Building Culturally Safe Pathways for Indigenous Researchers Chair: Professor Virginia Slaughter	
	This session will explore approaches to developing culturally safe pathways to PhD study for Indigenous students, drawing on insights from the Doing Research for Mob program. Through program insights and student voices, the session will consider how culturally safe information, mentoring and research networks can support Indigenous students to explore, navigate and succeed in higher degree research, with practical ideas that institutions can adapt to their own contexts.	Associate Professor Judith Dean, UQ Poche Centre for Indigenous Health Rebekah Hauiti, HDR Engagement Co-ordinator, UQ Poche Centre for Indigenous Health
4.30 pm	Day 1 close	
6.30 pm	Conference dinner The Emporium Hotel South Bank, Frangipani Room, 267 Grey Street, South Brisbane	

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Day 2: Thursday November 5th

8:45 am	Coffee	
9.00 am	Session 6 – AGM Chair: Professor Louise Sharpe	
	Annual General Meeting (Members representatives or proxies)	Professor Louise Sharpe, Pro Vice-Chancellor (Researcher Training) University of Sydney & ACGR President
9.45 am	Session 7 - HDR Wellbeing, Engagement and Research Culture (WERC) Project @ UQ Chair: Professor Penny Martens	
	This session presents the 2026 WERC Survey, a collaborative initiative involving UQ HDR candidates, researchers, the School of Psychology and the Graduate Research School. The survey explores HDR students' wellbeing and engagement with their research programs, examining the relationship between their experiences of work and research demands, available resources, and the research culture and climate in which they work. Drawing on responses from a large sample of UQ HDR students, the session will share key findings and consider what the evidence reveals about the factors that shape HDR wellbeing, engagement and the overall research training experience.	Professor Virginia Slaughter, Dean, Graduate School, University of Queensland
10.45 am	Morning Tea	
11.15 am	Session 7 – Industry Placement in PhD Training: A National Study of Student and Advisor Experiences Chair: Professor Louise Sharpe	
	This session will report on a study conducted to establish the first national evidence base on PhD industry placements. Drawing on the experiences of 345 PhD students and 143 academic advisors from across the country, the study offers a clear and candid picture of a system that has reached maturity in intent and scale, but not yet in consistency of execution. Three recommendations are provided to respond to the evidence marking a starting point for ongoing action and collaboration.	Professor Shazia Sadiq, ARC training centre for information resilience, University of Queensland
12.15pm	NZ DDoGs update Sponsor updates	Professor Tracy Riley, Massey University Lucy Cook, Academic Partnerships Manager, Epigeum Marco Simpliciano, ResearchMaster
12:40pm	Lunch	
	Session 8 – Approaches to Collaborative and Industry PhDs Chair: Professor Chris Abbiss	
1.40pm	In this session we will discuss innovative approaches institutions are taking to support collaborative HDR programs. The session will focus on industry engagement and partnerships that drive innovation and impact	Professor Penny Martens, Pro Vice-Chancellor Higher Degrees by Research, UTS Professor Gretchen Benedix, Associate Deputy Vice- Chancellor, Research, Curtin University
2.40 – 2.55	Meeting summary and closure	Professor Louise Sharpe, University of Sydney & ACGR President

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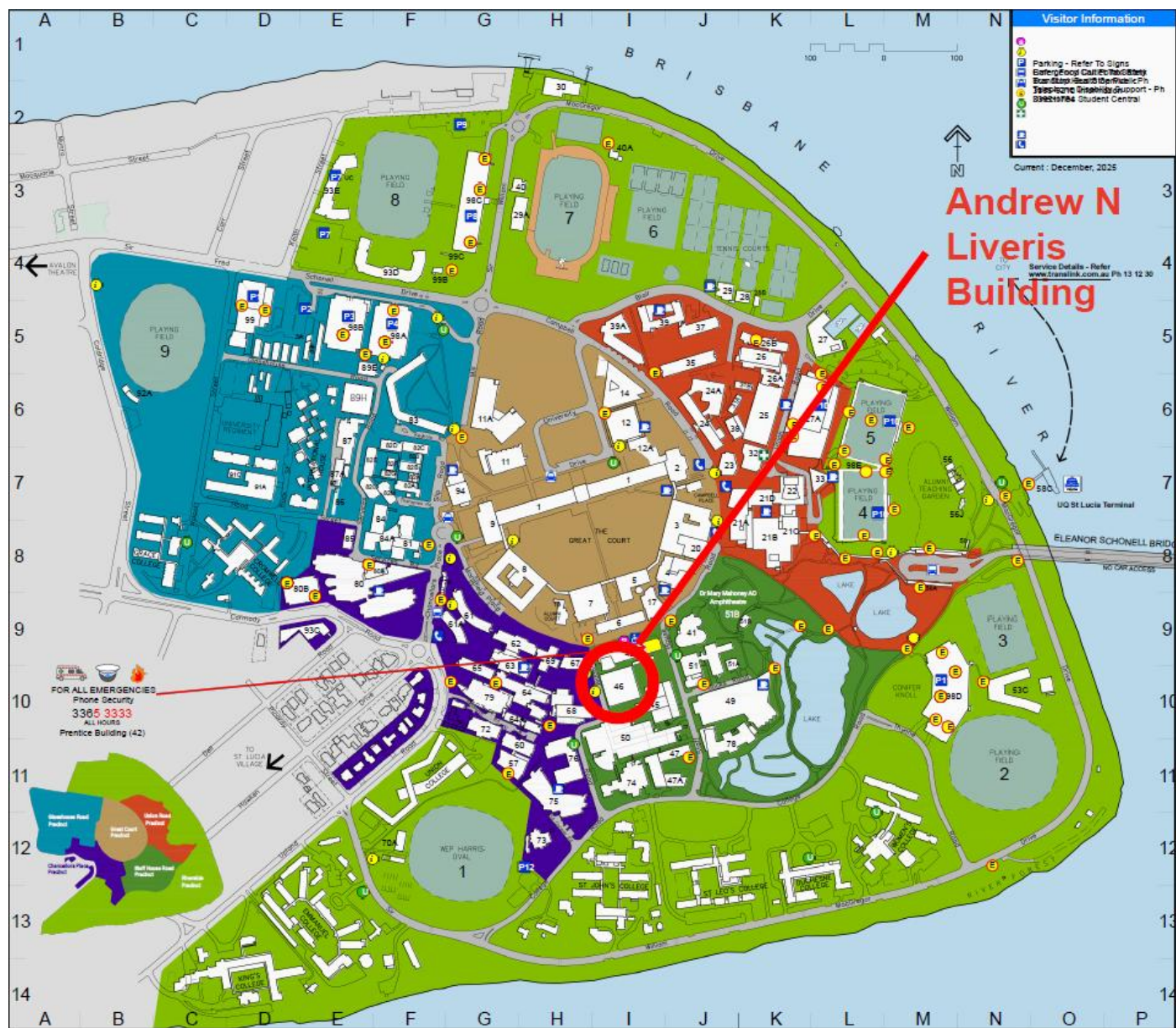


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