Council OPEN Meeting

Schedule

Thursday 31 March 2022, 8:30 - 10:30 AEDT

Venu Orgai	-				
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	The University of New England respects and acknowledges that its people, courses and facilities are built on land, and surrounded by a sense of belonging, both ancient and contemporary, of the world's oldest living culture. In doing so, UNE values and respects Indigenous knowledge systems as a vital part of the knowledge capital of Australia. We recognise the strength, resilience and capacity of the Aboriginal community and pay our respects to the Elders past, present and future. Presented by Joe Fraser				
1.2.	* Apologies Mr Peter Prest - Chief Financial Officer Presented by James Harris	3			
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	Council members are asked to disclose any material interest, consistent with Schedule 2A Clause 5 of the University of New England 1993 Act (NSW).				
	Council members are asked to update their Disclosed Register of Interest with the Secretariat as required. Presented by James Harris				
1.4.	* Order of Business	5			

Council is asked to ACCEPT the order of business and ADOPT nonstarred items.

For Approval - Presented by James Harris

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	Minutes of the meeting held on 28 January 2022 were approved as a true and correct record via email on 16 March 2022	
	A signed copy of the minutes is available for viewing in the Convene Document Library. Presented by James Harris	
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	 3) APPROVE amendment to the UNE 2022 Principal Dates #ABSC22432 re: additional Autumn graduation celebrations; 4) APPROVE amendment to the: 	
	 a. Graduation Rule, b. Graduation Guidelines (formally Graduation Procedures), c. Graduation Certification Form (Associated Document to Graduation Guidelines/Procedures) 	
	 5) APPROVE amendment to the: a. Freedom of Speech Principles and Academic Freedom Statement; b. Freedom of Speech and Academic Freedom Guidelines; 6) APPROVE the revised Human Research Ethics Committee Terms of 	
	Reference; 7) ENDORSE and RECOMMEND to the Vice-Chancellor (FOR APPROVAL) amendment to the Code of Conduct (including a mandatory 12-month review);	
	8) NOTE the amended 'last date to withdraw without academic penalty' from 02 May 2022 to 27 May 2022 (#ABSC22421) as approved by the Vice-Chancellor on 20 March 2022 (VCM22-03); and	
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1. MEETING OPENING

1.1. * Reconciliation Action Plan -Acknowledgement of Country

The University of New England respects and acknowledges that its people, courses and facilities are built on land, and surrounded by a sense of belonging, both ancient and contemporary, of the world's oldest living culture. In doing so, UNE values and respects Indigenous knowledge systems as a vital part of the knowledge capital of Australia. We recognise the strength, resilience and capacity of the Aboriginal community and pay our respects to the Elders past, present and future.

Presented by Joe Fraser

1.2. * Apologies

Mr Peter Prest - Chief Financial Officer

Presented by James Harris

1.3. * Conflict of Interest Declaration and Disclosed Register of Interest

Council members are asked to disclose any material interest, consistent with Schedule 2A Clause 5 of the University of New England 1993 Act (NSW).

Council members are asked to update their Disclosed Register of Interest with the Secretariat as required. Presented by James Harris

1.4. * Order of Business

Council is asked to ACCEPT the order of business and ADOPT non-starred items.

For Approval Presented by James Harris

1.5. * Introduction to: new Council Member Ms Megan Aitken and Pro Vice-Chancellor Indigenous, Dr Joe Fraser For Noting

Presented by Megan Aitken and Joe Fraser

1.6. Confirmation of Minutes

Minutes of the meeting held on 28 January 2022 were approved as a true and correct record via email on 16 March 2022

A signed copy of the minutes is available for viewing in the Convene Document Library. Presented by James Harris

1.7. * Action Items

Presented by James Harris



Action items arising from Council OPEN Meeting Thursday 31 March 2022, 9:00 — 11:00 AEDT

Action	Due Date	Assigned To	Status
3.2 Vice-Chancellor & CEO's Report #21051 Anthony Smith, Executive Prinicipal Brand, Partnerships and Business Development and Shelley Kinash, Executive Principal, Student Experience to provide a report on student retention to Council on 28 January 2021 including to consider opportunities for process changes to enable future students marketing teams and student experience to work in parallel for improved experience for students and conversion from offers to enrollment.	28 Jan 2022	Anthony Smith, Shelley Kinash, Elizabeth Taylor, Lisa Burr	Outstanding
Response provided by Anthony Smith in slide pack titled, Prospective Student Conversion - Attachment 6 of VC & CEO Confidential Report #22025. Shelley Kinash's response not included			
7 #22073 Due Diligence Obligations (WHS) The Chief Operating Officer to report to Council data on trends relating to long standing, complex unresolved grievances.	31 Mar 2022	Tracey Lye, Elizabeth Taylor, Lisa Burr	Completed
25/03/22 – Reported in VC & CEO report #22062			
 8.1 - #22067 The Director Governance and University Secretary to provide the Academic Board with the opportunity to comment on those polices NOT APPROVED at this meeting, and report the outcome to Council in March 2022, including: Updated Governance Framework Rule; Amendments to Code of Conduct; Amendments to Freedom of Speech and Academic Freedom Statement; and Amendments Freedom of Speech and Academic Freedom Guidelines. 	31 Mar 2022	Gabrielle Price, Elizabeth Taylor, Lisa Burr	Completed
25/03/22 - Provided to Academic Board on 21 February 2022			
8.1 - #22067 Council Policies Report Academic Freedom Working Group reports to be provided in the Council Reading Room on Convene.	31 Mar 2022	Gabrielle Price, Elizabeth Taylor, Lisa Burr	Completed
25/03/22 - S(ABS) confirmed reports provided in the Reading Room on Convene - Council and Council Committees / Council OPEN / 2022 January 28 folder.			

2. CHANCELLOR'S REPORT

2.1. * Chancellor's Report OPEN to Council #22056

Council is asked to NOTE the Chancellor's report OPEN to Council, report #22056.

For Noting Presented by James Harris



Authority	COUNCIL OPEN	Date	31 March 2022	
Report Ref	#22056 <i>Item No</i> 2.1			
Proposer	Mr James Harris, UNE Chancellor			
Developed with	Specialist, Governance Liaison			
Authorised by	Mr James Harris, UNE Chancellor			

#22056 – Chancellor's Report to Council

Report Purpose & Origin				
Purpose To provide Council with the Chancellor's Report for the March 2022 Open Council Meeting.				
Origin Standing item				
Governance focus	<u>Council Policy</u> : Providing strategic leadership to the University. <u>TEQSA Act 2011</u> Ref: 6. Governance and Accountability: 6.1.3a (Corporate Governance).			
Accountability	UNE Council			

Resolution

Council is asked to NOTE the Chancellor's report to Council, report #22056.

Executive Summary

I am very pleased my report to Council in March comes at a time when many of us are able to meet face to face and when the UNE Armidale Campus and UNE centres in Tamworth, Sydney, Taree, and Moree are experiencing a welcome buzz of activity reflecting the interactions of returning students and staff and a wonderful reminder of the connecting energy of education.

This report focuses on

- Celebration of UNE GRASS Students Outcomes
- Opening of the Drought Resilience Hub at Nova in Armidale
- Community connections including with Armidale Regional Council and Tamworth
- Updates on focus areas for UA and University Chancellor's Council
- New Council Member Megan Aitken
- UNE's Annual Reporting cycle and an extraordinary 2021

Key Information

Authority	COUNCIL OPEN	Date	31 March 2022
Report title	Chancellor's Report to Council	Report Ref	#22056



• Celebration of UNE GRASS Students Outcomes

On a stunning Armidale day in early February, I had the opportunity to celebrate with UNE GRASS (that is 'Growing Regional & Agricultural Students in Science') students who have completed their industry placement scholarship program and the UNE staff and industry collaborators who support the program. After 14 years of the GRASS program, connecting with over 6,600 school students in school visits, and 222 students having completed the full intensive scholarship program, it was an opportunity to reflect on the longer term benefits this and other outreach programs have in terms of the longer term improved education outcomes for students.



• Drought Resilience Hub at Nova

With thanks to the funding support from Regional NSW, UNE will host a dedicated Node of the Drought Resilience Hub network (which will include Northern NSW and Southern Queensland sites). In Armidale UNE's Nova will be the base of the note. UNE is excited to partner with industry to deliver drought resilience initiatives across northern NSW. Our partners will include Central West Farming System, GLENRAC Inc., Rural Aid, Murray Darling Association, Southern Australia Livestock Research Council, Meridian Agriculture, Agripath, Resource Consulting Services, and Bush Agribusiness.

At the launch we heard about the goal to increase resilience to drought and climate variability in our northern NSW communities, from a financial, environmental and wellbeing perspective. The program

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will draw on skilled personnel from UNE and our partner organisations for development of materials and delivery of training and activities to the community.



• Community engagement

Since the last Council meeting I have met with the new Mayor and Deputy Mayor of Armidale Regional Council to discuss opportunities for collaboration and development. Recently the funding for the development of UNE campus in Tamworth was confirmed, an event of great celebration and a credit to the University and students in the region. Particular credit is provided to the Vice-Chancellor Professor Heywood and the Executive Team for supporting this important development to this point.

• Update from Universities Chancellor's Council (UCC)

After a 2 year hiatus, I am pleased to confirm that the AICD Foundations of University Governance course will be run in 2022 with dates scheduled across various locations (Sydney, Brisbane, Canberra and Melbourne) in the first half of the year. Council members who have expressed will be contacted to consider these options.

During March, at meeting of the UCC and also with NSW Vice Chancellor's Committee (NSW VCC) key topics of discussion were higher education policy issues including the relative positions of the political parties ahead of the Federal Election, and also the role Universities Australia plays in supporting the sector.

Summary of Chancellor's activities – November February 2022 to March 2022

In addition to my regular meetings with the Vice-Chancellor, I have attended the following meetings and events since the January meeting:

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Authority	COUNCIL OPEN	Date	31 March 2022
Report title	Chancellor's Report to Council	Report Ref	#22056

- On 11 February I attended the UNE GRASS Student Reporting Back Session
- On 14 February I attended a Universities Chancellors Council (UCC) meeting
- On 18 February I met with Mayor Sam Coupland and Deputy Mayor Todd Redwood of the Armidale Regional Council
- On 21 February I attended a NSWVCC meeting
- On 23 February I attended UNE in relation to UNE investments
- On 24 February I attended UNE Council Committee meetings at UNE
- On 28 February I was present for the Launch of Drought Resilience Hub at SRI Nova in Armidale.
- On 3 March I met with the new Council Member Megan Aitken who commenced formally on 21st March 2022
- Also on 3 March I attended a UCC / UA Roundtable discussion focused on the UA Health Check
- On 11 March I met with the Deputy Vice-Chancellor
- On 25 March I met with two of UNE's three Deans, Professor Mike Wilmore (HASSE); Professor Birgit Loch (SABL)

Future Fit Alignment	Contribution of this initiative
Goal 3: Committing to environmental, social and financial resilience for the University, our staff, our students and our communities.	Sector, community and stakeholder engagement, networking and collaboration.

Appendices / Supporting Documentation

Nil

3. MANAGEMENT REPORTS

3.1. * Vice-Chancellor & CEO's Verbal Report #22062 Verbal

Council is asked to NOTE the Vice-Chancellor & CEO's Verbal report #22062.

For Noting Presented by Brigid Heywood

3.1.1. * National Student Survey Update #22171

Council is asked to NOTE the National Student Survey Results and proposed UNE response, report #22171 For Noting

Presented by Brigid Heywood



Authority	OPEN COUNCIL	Date	31 March 2022	
Report Ref	#22171 Item No 3		3.1.1	
Proposer	Professor Brigid Heywood			
Developed with	Chief of Staff, Associate Director Communications			
Authorised by	Authorised by James Harrison, UNE Chancellor			

#22171 – National Student Survey Update

Report Purpos	Report Purpose & Origin				
Purpose	The purpose of this report is to provide Council with an update on the National Student Survey.				
Origin	Student experience Work place Health and Safety				
Governance focus	Council Charter (7) b. Oversee and monitor the University's performance Future Fit Goal 3 HESF – Corporate Governance 6.2.1.a Work Place Health and Safety				
Accountability Professor Brigid Heywood, Vice Chancellor					

Resolution

Council is asked to NOTE the National Student Survey Results and proposed UNE response, report #22171

Executive Summary

The second National Student Safety Survey addressing sexual assault and sexual harassment in university environments was published this month. All Australian Universities have published their own quantitative results and UA has produced a qualitative report. The survey advances some of the work in the first survey and creates a baseline for future consideration of progress.

UNE notes the engagement and high participation rates amongst our enrolled students. The diversity of the UNE student respondents and their individual experiences merits specific attention.

Despite evidence of improvement, the data exposes ongoing issues with safety on campus in social settings.

The UNE report also highlights issues with cultural awareness, as well as the need to uplift our focus on education and trauma support and change in some of our processes and resources to better manage complaints of sexual assault and harassment.

These matters were also raised in meetings with UNE student representatives and those attending briefing meetings.



	Authority	OPEN COUNCIL	Date	31 March 2022
Ē	Report title	National Student Survey Update	Report Ref	#22171

UNE is now progressing with plans for a Student Summit before advancing the recommendations from the Respectful Communities Report commissioned last year.

Key Information

Background

On Wednesday 23rd March 2022 Universities Australia released the results of the National Student Safety Survey (NSSS).

Australian universities commissioned and funded the National Student Safety Survey which ran in October 2021 [https://www.universitiesaustralia.edu.au/project/2021-nsss/]. This link also gives access to the overall report.

The survey collected data on the scale and nature of university student experiences of sexual assault and sexual harassment to provide accurate and up-to-date information to universities about what is happening in their student communities. It ran across the sector from Monday 6 September through to Sunday 3 October 2021.

This is the second such national survey run by the university sector The NSSS follows the 2016 UA/Australian Human Rights Commission (AHRC) survey of Australian Universities which resulted in the 'Change the Course Report', <u>https://humanrights.gov.au/our-work/sex-discrimination/publications/change-course-national-report-sexual-assault-and-sexual</u>.

After the 'Change the Course' report was published in 2017 UNE commissioned an independent AHRC report into UNE Colleges in 2019.

Below (Figure One) is a summary of actions taken by UNE after these earlier reports.



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Australian Human Rights Released the Change the Course Report Established an Advisory Committee UNE RNA Webpage developed University engaged the local Liquor Accord Intarim internal audit of existing university policies around sexual assault and harassment Implemented anonymous reporting form	Eripagad the Australian Human Rights Commission to conduct an independent review Implemented College Wellness Week Sex Discrimination Commissioner Ms Kate Jenkine presented to staff and students at UNE Responding to Diaclosures of Sexual Violence training Consent Matters - Boundaries, Respoct and Positive Intervention training Understanding Ethical Consent Matters Boundaries, Respoct and Positive Intervention training Audit of university counselling services Et up declicated after- hours counselling services Eduration training to the service Emergency contact posters distributed	Laadership in Action training Vice-Chancellors RNA Working group established Responsible Service of Alcohol (RSA) training Alcohol & Drug Education Specialists ADES engaged Wellness Week rodesign UNE Student Counselling & Psychological Services contact card introduced Be A Better Human campaign created Binneduc delivery of training introduced delivery of training introduced to three pillars of college residential system: 1. Mealthy, Respectful Realitonships 2. Mental Health & Wellbeing 3. Alcohol and Drug	2020 Universities Australia engages Social Research Centre (SRC) to conduct 2nd National Survey Respective Supervisory Relationships Training Introduction of staff awaranass modulas: Sexual Harasamit and Sexual Harasamit and Sexual Assoult: What are the drivers and how con staff respond?	Grappyine Anonymous incident reporting Wellness Cantre re-design MATE – training in empowering communities and preventing violence	2022 First vesponders to subleme training for all student leaders for all student leaders distribution training
		Figu	ıre One		

UNE Results

The following infographic in *Figure Two*, illustrates UNE's survey results:



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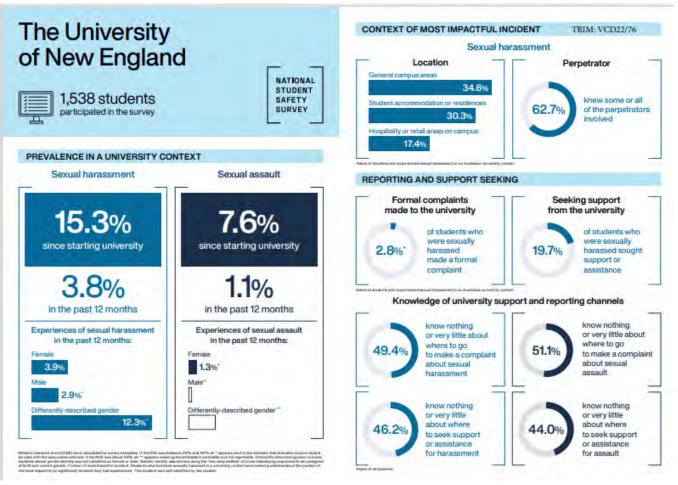


Figure Two

UNE Communications and Student Support Management

The Chancellor and Chairs of Council Committees were briefed when the embargoed results were published.

UNE published the following statement and video on the day of the survey's release. https://www.une.edu.au/connect/news/2022/03/une-response-to-the-national-student-safety-survey.

Attached also for reference is #22171_Attachment One_UNE's Communication Run Sheet. UNE's Communications and Student Response teams were well prepared to manage communications and student response.

UNE's Communication teams are monitoring closely the media response. #22171_Attachment Two_Summary of Media Coverage_First two days. Although Universities Australia did not publish a ranking, some media outlets have chosen to do so.



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Response from Student and Staff

The Vice-Chancellor and CEO can report that students and staff alike were naturally, both upset and concerned by the UNE results. The Student Consultative Committee were briefed separately and showed concern and a desire to take an active role in next steps.

Next steps

UNE aims to continue 'LISTENING' as a primary focus before engineering further change. If the institution is to effectively take further steps, these must be appropriately informed. From a UNE perspective the following will be the next major steps:

- Formalise the Armidale Safety Alliance [UNE working with NE Police and ARC on alcohol/drug safety];
- Host a UNE 'Student Summit" this event would be professionally facilitated;
- Adopt an 'Independent Advisory Board' model to work with UNE community; and
- Complete 2022 College Review.

Risk Management

The primary risk UNE is focussed on is the safety and well-being of students and staff. The only satisfactory number is Zero – Zero incidents and Zero tolerance.

It goes without saying that the results pose risks for UNE's brand and reputation which in term may impact our student intake and partnerships which would in turn impact UNE's financial sustainability.

Future Fit Alignment	Contribution of this initiative
Goal 1: Crafting, adapting and supporting learning journeys that are distinctive in their accessibility and flexibility.	Safe place to study for a diverse cohort of students
□ Goal 2: Creating and sharing knowledge to make a difference locally, regionally and globally.	
Goal 3: Committing to environmental, social and financial resilience for the University, our staff, our students and our communities.	 Supporting and developing a dynamic modern student experience with a strong residential element. Ensuring safety and well-being of all who engage with UNE.



Authority	OPEN COUNCIL	Date	31 March 2022
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Management Action Guidance

	Rare	Unlikely	Possible	Likely	Probable
Severe	MEDIUM	HIGH	HIGH	EXTREME	EXTREME
	Report to SET	Report to SET and Council	Report to SET and Council	Report to SET and Council	Report to SET and Council
	(within 6 months)	(within 3 months)	(within 3 months)	(within 1 month)	(within 1 month)
Major	MEDIUM	MEDIUM	IIGH	HIGH	EXTREME
	Report to SET	Report to SET	Report to SET and Council	Report to SET and Council	Report to SET and Council
	(within 6 months)	(within 6 months)	(within 3 months)	(within 3 months)	(within 1 month)
Moderate	LOW No action required	MEDIUM Report to SET within 6 months)	MEDIUM Report to SET (within 6 months)	HIGH Report to SET and Council (within 3 months)	HIGH Report to SET and Council (within 3 months)
Minor	LOW No action required	LOW No action required	LOW No action required	MEDIUM Report to SET (within 6 months)	MEDIUM Report to SET (within 6 months)
Insignificant	VERY LOW	VERY LOW	VERY LOW	LOW	LOW
	No action required	No action required	No action required	No action required	No action required

Appendices / Supporting Documentation

ATTACHMENTS

#22171_ Attachment One_UNE's Communication Run Sheet

#22171_Attachment Two_Summary of Media Coverage_First two days.



NSSS Launch VC Run-Sheet

#22171_ Attachment One_UNE's Communication Run Sheet

Day	Date	Time	Action/Event	Responsibility/attendee
Wednesday	esday 23 March 10:00am Confidential briefing to advocacy and community groups		Universities Australia (UA)	
		11:00am	Confidential briefing to student consultative committee; Discussion of NSSS Results	VC, DVC, EP-SE, Dir. PANDC, et al.
		11:00am	Report given under embargo to higher education journalists. Embargo applies to talking to third parties.	Universities Australia (UA)
		12:30pm	Media Roundtable with higher education journalists (10-12 journalists)	Universities Australia (UA)
		1:00pm	UNE Release results - One Pager infographic on RNA Page	UNE Corporate Communications
		1:30pm	UNE provide Statement published on Connect (UNE Newsroom page)	UNE Corporate Communications
		2:00pm	All Student SRM with Video	UNE Corporate Communications
Thursday	24 th March	4.45pm	Briefing with UNE College & affiliate community	VC, Exec, EP-SE, Dir. Residential et.al
Friday	25 th March	12:00pm	UNE In-Conversation to all staff	UNE Corporate Communications VC to host
ТВС			Briefing with UNE on-campus non-college students (Townies)	UNE Corporate Communications initiating with stakeholders
Ongoing			Social media monitoring & media response coordination	UNE Corporate Communications

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Attachment 2

#22171_Attachment Two_Summary of Media Coverage_First two days

National Student Safety Survey 2022

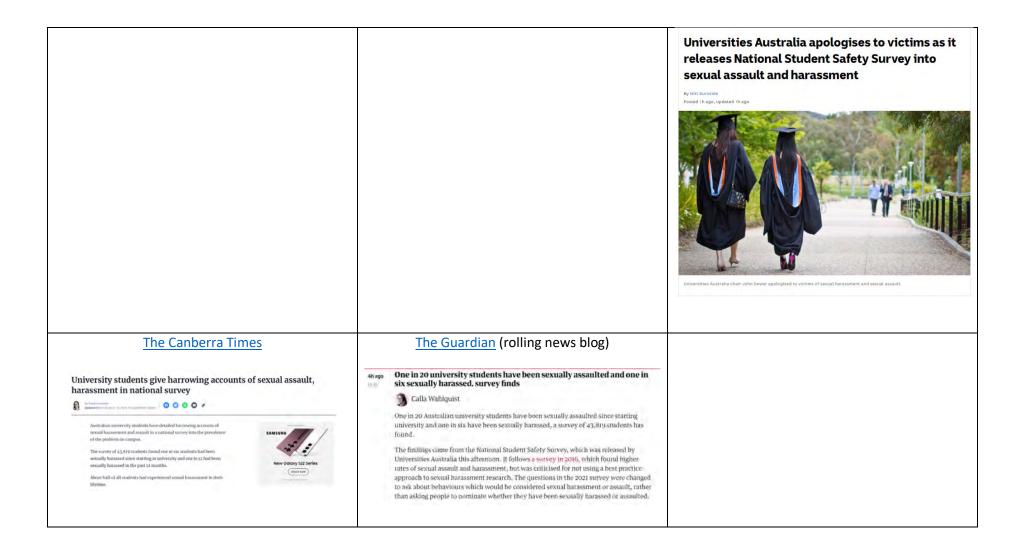
Media/social media monitoring

Report to 5.30pm on 23 March on media and social media coverage and commentary since the release of the National Student Safety Survey results.

With the exception of the Newcastle Herald and ABC News media reports, which highlighted the results of Newcastle University and Australian National University respectively, the coverage has taken a sector-wide approach, most drawing out aggregated data on the low rates of student reporting, or urging universities to take greater action on the issue overall.

Media coverage has included:

The Sydney Morning H	<u>lerald</u>	Newcastle Herald	ABC News
One in six university students sexua in 20 sexually assaulted	lly harassed, one	Almost one in five University of Newcastle students sexu harassed: survey	0
One in six Australian university students say they have been sexually harassed and one in 20 say they have been sexually assaubted since beginning their degree, a major national study of almost 44,000 ninversity students has found. Half of those who were barassed have some or all of the perpetators, and almost half of the incidents happened in general campus area, the survey found. One in 30 made a formal compliant, and one in its rought support. Two-thirds of those who were sexually assaulted have the perpetators, and one in 10 made a compliant. One in four south support. Agents happened at clubs, societies and events, and another quarter happened at student accommodation.	WY IT FARTERS Out in our investige standards say they In under standards say they In under standards say they In under standard southers In Under standard southe	Particular of the social Research Contro's 3021 National Student Safety Same you are solar of the social Research Contro's 3021 National Student Safety Same you are of the social Research Contro's 3021 National Student Safety Same you are of the social Students - were released on weak seed.	via Lloyd Lunerats

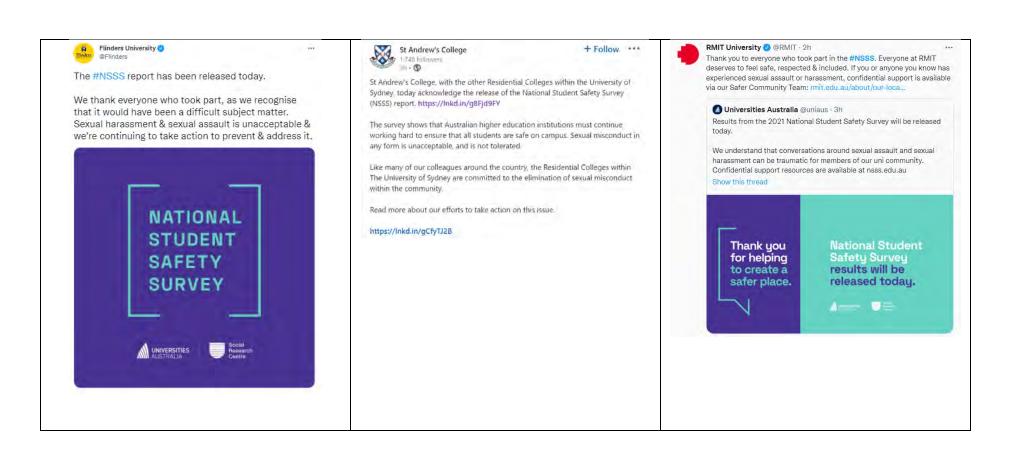


Social media coverage and commentary has included:



University statements on social media have been few but include:

Flinders University (Twitter)	St Andrew's College, University of Sydney	<u>RMIT University</u> (Twitter)
	(LinkedIn)	



University of Wollongong (Facebook)	