**University Accord – Summary of Questions – February 2023**

*“The Panel needs all stakeholders to be part of the Review and to respond to this paper. We ask you to respond to the questions that most resonate with you – and to be bold in your comments and submissions.”*

**1 Introduction: the role of higher education in Australia’s future**

Q1 How should an Accord be structured and focused to meet the challenges facing Australia’s higher education system? What is needed to overcome limitations in the current approach to Australian higher education?

Q2 How can the diverse missions of Australian higher education providers be supported, taking into account their different operating contexts and communities they serve (for example regional universities)?

Q3 What should the long-term target/s be for Australia’s higher education attainment by 2030 and 2040, and how should these be set and adjusted over time?

**2 Challenges and opportunities for Australia**

Q4 Looking from now to 2030 and 2040, what major national challenges and opportunities should Australian higher education be focused on meeting?

Q5 How do the current structures of institutions, regulation and funding in higher education help or hinder Australia’s ability to meet these challenges? What needs to change?

Q6 What are the best ways to achieve and sustain future growth in Australian higher education, given the changing needs of the population and the current pressures on public funding?

Q7 How should the mix of providers evolve, considering the size and location of existing institutions and the future needs of communities?

**3 Challenges and opportunities for the higher education system**

**3.1 Quality teaching delivering quality learning**

Q8 What reforms are needed to promote a quality learning environment and to ensure graduates are entering the labour market with the skills and knowledge they need?

**3.2 Meeting Australia’s knowledge and skills needs**

Q9 How should Australia ensure enough students are studying courses that align with the changing needs of the economy and society?

Q10 What role should higher education play in helping to develop high quality general learning capabilities across all age groups and industries?

Q11 How should Australia boost demand from people to study in the higher education system?

Q12 How should an adequate supply of CSPs be sustained and funded, as population and demand increase?

Q13 How could an Accord support cooperation between providers, accreditation bodies, government and industry to ensure graduates have relevant skills for the workforce?

Q14 How should placement arrangements and work-integrated learning (WIL) in higher education change in the decades ahead?

Q15 What changes are needed to grow a culture of lifelong learning in Australia?

Q16 What practical barriers are inhibiting lifelong learning, and how can they be fixed?

**3.3 Connection between the vocational education and training and higher education systems**

Q17 How should better alignment and connection across Australia’s tertiary education system be achieved?

Q18 What role should reform of the AQF play in creating this alignment?

Q19 What would a more effective and collaborative national governance approach to tertiary education look like?

Q20 How can pathways between VET and higher education be improved, and how can students be helped to navigate these pathways?

Q21 How can current examples of successful linkages between VET and higher education be integrated across the tertiary education system?

Q22 What role do tertiary entrance and admissions systems play in matching learners to pathways and supporting a sustained increase in participation and tertiary success?

**3.4 A system that delivers new knowledge, innovation and capability**

Q23 How should an Accord help Australia increase collaboration between industry, government and universities to solve big challenges?

Q24 What reforms will enable Australian research institutions to achieve excellence, scale and impact in particular fields?

Q25 How should Australia leverage its research capacity overall and use it more effectively to develop new capabilities and solve wicked problems?

Q26 How can Australia stimulate greater industry investment in research and more effective collaboration?

Q27 How can we improve research training in Australia including improving pathways for researchers to gain experience and develop high-impact careers in government and industry?

**3.5 Creating opportunity for all Australians**

Q28 What is needed to increase the number of people from under-represented groups applying to and prepared for higher education, both from school and from other pathways?

Q29 What changes in provider practices and offerings are necessary to ensure all potential students can succeed in their chosen area of study?

Q30 How can governments, institutions and employers assist students, widen opportunities and remove barriers to higher education?

Q31 How can the costs of participation, including living expenses, be most effectively alleviated?

Q32 How can best practice learning and teaching for students from under-represented groups be embedded across the higher education system, including the use of remote learning?

Q33 What changes to funding and regulatory settings would enable providers to better support students from under-represented groups in higher education?

**3.6 Governance, accountability and community**

Q34 How should the contribution of higher education providers to community engagement be encouraged and promoted?

Q35 Where providers make a distinctive contribution to national objectives through community, location-based or specialised economic development, how should this contribution be identified and invested in?

Q36 What regulatory and governance reforms would enable the higher education sector to better meet contemporary demands?

Q37 How could a more coherent and dynamic national governance system for higher education be achieved?

Q38 How can the Accord support higher education providers to adopt sector-leading employment practices?

**3.7 Quality and sustainability**

Q39 What reforms are needed to ensure that all students have a quality student experience?

Q40 What changes are needed to ensure all students are physically and culturally safe while studying?

Q41 How should research quality be prioritised and supported most effectively over the next decade?

Q42 What settings are needed to ensure academic integrity, and how can new technologies and innovative assessment practices be leveraged to improve academic integrity?

**3.8 The role of international education**

Q43 How should the current recovery in international education be managed to increase the resilience and sustainability of Australia’s higher education system, including through diversification of student enrolments from source countries?

Q44 How can the benefits of international education be shared broadly across the system, including in regional areas, and what level of reporting should there be?

**3.9 Investment and affordability**

Q45 How should the contribution of different institutions and providers to key national objectives specific to their location, specialist expertise or community focus be appropriately financed?

Q46 How can infrastructure development for higher education be financed, especially in regional and outer urban locations?

Q47 What structure of Commonwealth funding is needed for the higher education sector for the system to be sustainable over the next two decades?

Q48 What principles should underpin the setting of student contributions and Higher Education Loan Program arrangements?

Q49 Which aspects of the JRG package should be altered, and which should be retained?