

## University Chancellors Council | Answers to Questions on Notice from Senator Faruqi

**In the recent budget for UCC, what types of activities and work did the UCC spend money on? Please provide an itemised list.**

In 2025, the University Chancellors Council recognised the below key focus areas:

- Engagement of Katherine Teh for February 2025 Plenary and Social Licence Report
- Commencement of the Social Licence Steering Committee in alignment with the February 2025 plenary
- Development of the University Chancellors Council Website and Brand
- Engagement and support of the Expert Council on University Governance
- Engagement of Mercer Consulting for 2025 Vice-Chancellor and Senior Executive Benchmarking reports
- Review of AICD Courses and development of updates for 2026 programs
- Engagement with key stakeholders across the sector including the National Union of Students (NUS), Fair Work Ombudsman (FWO), National Tertiary Education Union (NTEU), Race Discrimination Commissioner, Australian Association of University Secretaries (AAUS), etc.
- Agreement to develop a framework alongside the Commonwealth Remuneration Tribunal in consultation with the Minister for Education in July 2025
- Closer working relationship with Universities Australia and agreement to review sector representation and alignment in 2026

Regarding budgetary allocations, the below applies to the use of consultants in the work of the University Chancellors Council:

- \$75,000.00 allocated across two different items in the engagement of Katherine Teh to:
  - Consult, research, and deliver a report on Social Licence for the university sector
  - Deliver the UCC and UA Joint Plenary in February 2025
- \$25,000.00 allocated to Katherine Teh to provide additional research on social licence curvature to the UCC for inclusion in the Social Licence work to be undertaken
- \$68,750.00 allocated for works with Mercer on the benchmarking of Vice-Chancellor and Senior Executive salaries. This is an ongoing report that has been undertaken by the University Chancellors Council for the benefit of the sector
- \$7440.05 for expenses incurred in the delivery of the AICD University Governance program in 2025

Regular operating expenditure is inclusive of \$27,508.56 YTD.

## **When will the report for your 'Social Licence Initiative' be released?**

This report was created for the purpose of informing our Chancellors and Vice-Chancellors on the placement of the issues facing the sector. The report has been circulated to Chancellors and Vice-Chancellors of Australian universities who are members of the UCC or Universities Australia.

A formal publication date has not yet been confirmed.

## **What has been the focus and agenda of your last two bi-annual workshops?**

In 2025, the University Chancellors Council recognised the below key focus areas:

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The UCC has held three plenaries in 2025.

- February 2025, Joint Plenary with Universities Australia – focused on discussing university social licence
- May 2025 – focused primarily on engaging with stakeholders, having other organisations present to the Chancellors directly, and the early engagements from the Social Licence Steering Committee.
- July 2025 – online plenaries were held with multiple options for attendance in order to discuss the concern around Vice-Chancellor salaries and decide on an approach to the Remuneration Tribunal
- October 2025 – continued this focus on stakeholder engagement and continued our ongoing dialogue around how our sector is perceived, represented, and aligns our public positions.