



UNIVERSITY OF  
CANBERRA

# MODERN SLAVERY STATEMENT

Reporting Period 1 January 2020  
to 31 December 2020

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The University of Canberra's statement of compliance with the Modern Slavery Act 2018 (Cth).

Approved by the University Council on 2 July 2020

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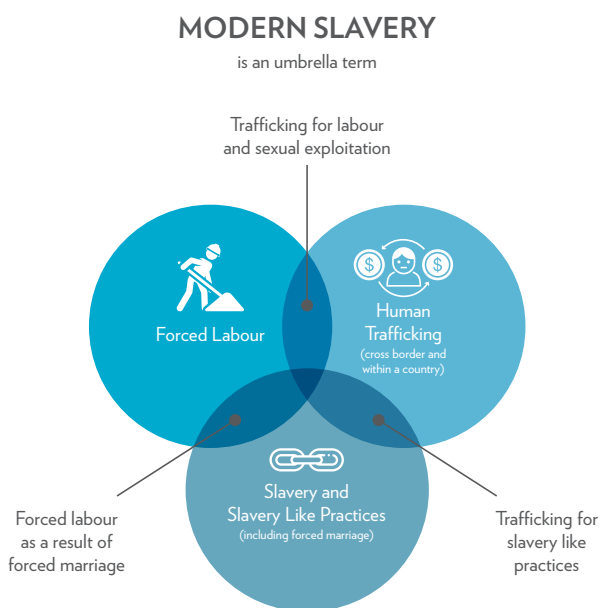
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# Introduction

The University of Canberra (**University**) prepared this modern slavery statement (**Statement**) pursuant to section 13 of the *Modern Slavery Act 2018* (Cth) (**Modern Slavery Act**).

Modern slavery refers to situations where coercion, threats or deception are used to exploit victims and undermine or deprive them of their freedom. This includes human trafficking, slavery, servitude, forced marriage, forced labour, debt bondage, deceptive recruiting for labour or services and child labour. Modern slavery and human trafficking are crimes and a violation of a person's fundamental human rights.

Figure 1 illustrates the umbrella term, "Modern Slavery" as provided by the Walk Free Foundation's Global Slavery Index 2018<sup>1</sup> (**Global Slavery Index**).



## Our Commitment

The University's number one strategic goal as outlined in its Strategic Plan 2018 – 2022 is to 'be the national sector leader in EQUITY, DIVERSITY, INCLUSION and ACCESS.'<sup>2</sup>

The University ranked number one in the Times Higher Education Impact Rankings<sup>3</sup> for reducing inequalities through its research on social inequalities, its policies on discrimination and its commitment to recruiting staff and students from under-represented groups.

The University is committed to delivering a strong response to modern slavery by continuing to review and investigate its operations and supply chains, to ensure they do not cause, involve or contribute to modern slavery.

The University is also committed to ensuring its suppliers, collaborators and others with whom the University does business, respect and share the University's commitment to minimising the risk of modern slavery.

## About UC

The University has its primary campus located in Bruce, in the Australian Capital Territory (**ACT**). The University also has campuses located in Melbourne, Queensland and Sydney, and has international delivery partners in China, Hong Kong, Vietnam, Singapore, Bhutan and India.

The University is ranked among the top 10 universities in Australia and is number 1 in the ACT for graduate employment.<sup>4</sup>

The University is a young university and is well regarded internationally, having risen swiftly up the global university rankings. The Times Higher Education World University rankings for 2021 placed the University in the top 20 young universities in the world and in the top 200 of *all* universities in the world.<sup>5</sup>

This success has been achieved pursuant to the University's 2018 – 2022 Strategic Plan, 'Distinctive by Design', which weaves together the three overarching themes; empowerment of our diverse people; distinctive teaching and research; and an enriched learning environment.

<sup>1</sup> Walk Free Foundation, The Global Slavery Index (Report, 2018) 7.

<sup>2</sup> University of Canberra, Distinctive by Design: Our Strategic Plan 2018 – 2022 (Report, 2017) 10.

<sup>3</sup> Times Higher Education, 'Impact Rankings 2021 by SDG: reduced inequalities', Impact Rankings 2021 (Web Page, 22 April 2021) <<https://www.timeshighereducation.com/world-university-rankings/university-canberra>>.

<sup>4</sup> The Good Universities Guide (Report, 2021) 52.

<sup>5</sup> Times Higher Education, 'Explore Rankings Data for University of Canberra', About University of Canberra (Web Page, 2021) <<https://www.timeshighereducation.com/world-university-rankings/university-canberra>>.

# Structure, Operations and Supply Chain

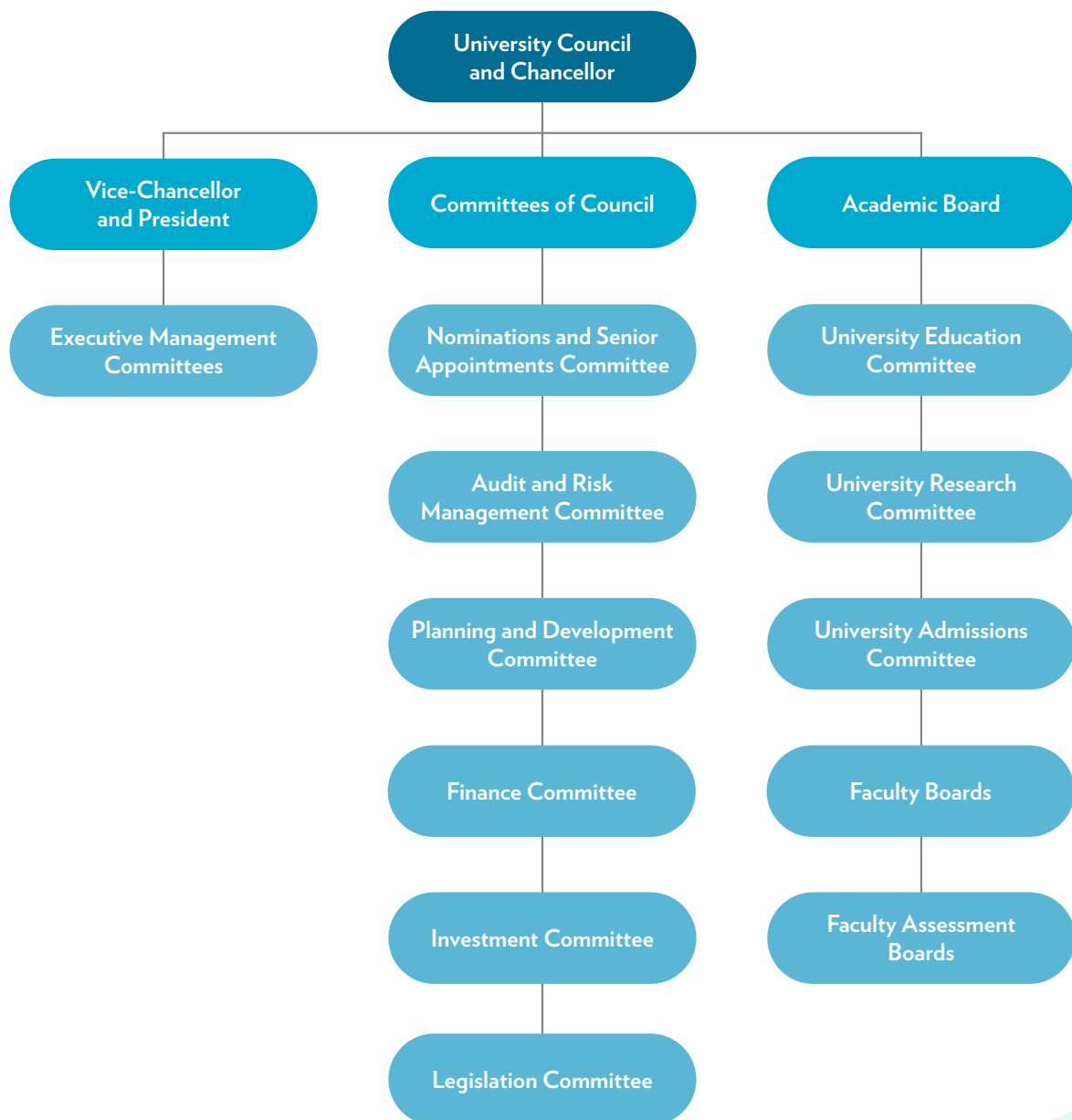
## Our Organisational Structure

The University of Canberra is a body corporate established by the *University of Canberra Act 1989 (ACT)* (the Act). The Act defines the functions, values and powers of the University. The University's organisation chart is **attached** and labelled Annexure A.

## Committees of Council

Council has established a number of committees to help it carry out its responsibilities.

The following image represents the University's committee reporting:



## Our Controlled Entities

The University has two wholly owned subsidiary companies, UCX Ltd. (**UCX**) (ACN 119 755 627) and UC Global Pty Ltd (**UC Global**) (ACN 095 483 686).

## Council

The governing body of the University, the Council, is established under the Act and has the entire management of the University. Council is responsible for the governance of the University and sets the strategic direction of the University.

The Council is required to act on all matters concerning the University in a way it considers will best promote the interests of the University.

Council is responsible for appointing the Chancellor, Deputy Chancellor, and Vice-Chancellor and President of the University, and members of Council. The Vice-Chancellor is accountable to Council for the overall management of the University within its legislative framework and resolutions of Council and is the primary source of advice to Council.

## Our Operations

The University has a key focus on serving the education and needs of the ACT and surrounding region. From educating the future workforce to solving the most complex research challenges, the University works closely with local government and the community.

The University's functions are provided at section 6 of the *University of Canberra Act 1989* (ACT) as follows:

1. to transmit and advance knowledge by undertaking teaching and research of the highest quality
2. to encourage, and provide facilities for, postgraduate study and research
3. to provide facilities and courses for higher education generally, including education appropriate to professional and other occupations, for students from within Australia and overseas
4. to award and confer degrees, diplomas and certificates, whether in its own right, jointly with other institutions or as otherwise decided by the council
5. to provide opportunities for people, including those who already have post-secondary qualifications, to obtain higher education qualifications

6. to develop and provide cultural, sporting, professional, technical and vocational services to the community
7. to participate in public discourse
8. to engage in extension activities
9. to commercially exploit or develop, for the University's benefit, any property of the University including any facility, resource, real property or other right or interest
10. to exercise any other function given to it under the Act or another territory law. the transmission and advancement of knowledge through teaching and research of the highest quality.

In 2019, the University reported a total of 11,423 students across its campuses. With 2,000 staff, the University makes a major contribution to the ACT economy and society.

In the 30 years since its establishment, the University has developed well-recognised, high quality education faculties in a range of areas including education and health and has a growing research capacity and reputation.

The University undertakes academic and commercial activities in various countries. The majority of the University's suppliers of goods are sourced from within Australia, however, the University does have suppliers based around the globe.

## Our Students

In 2019, the University reported a total of 11,423 students across its campuses.

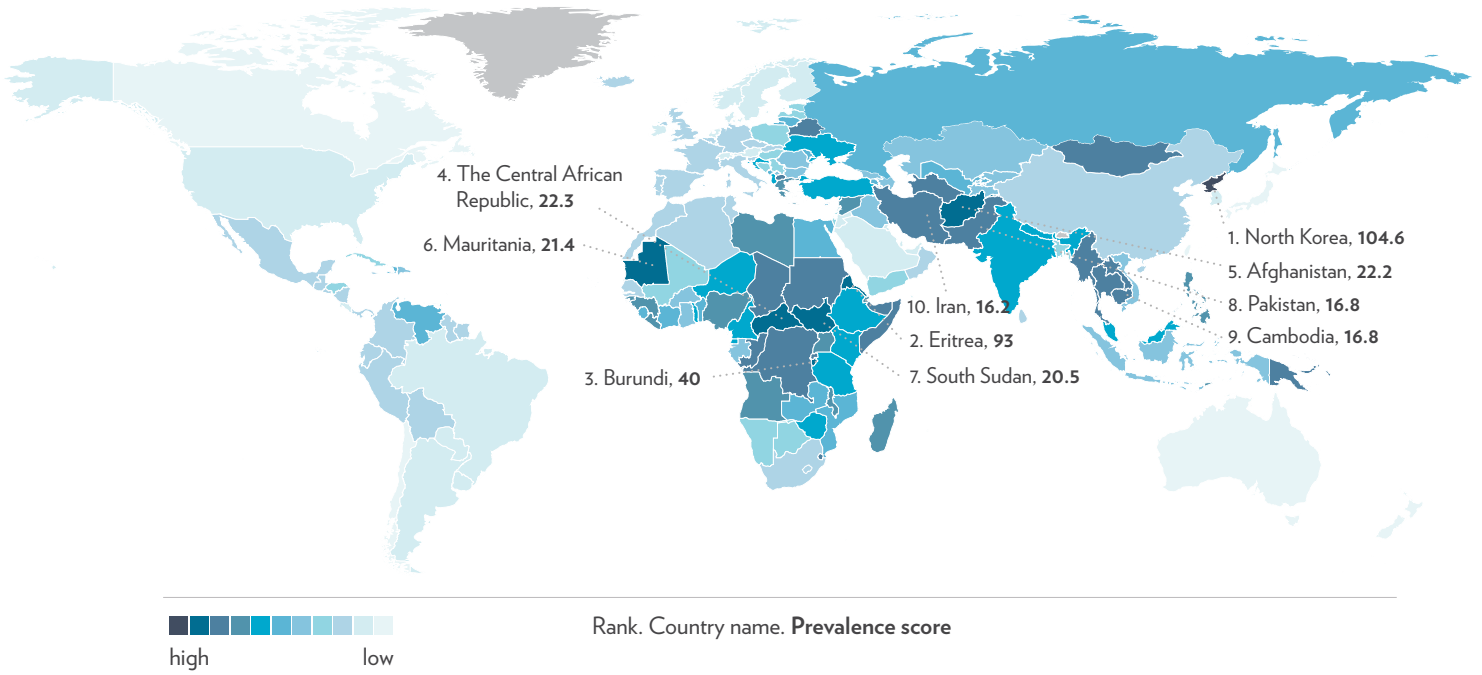
Of this figure, in 2020 the University reported that 3,885 of those students were international students.

The five highest countries of origin for these students were:

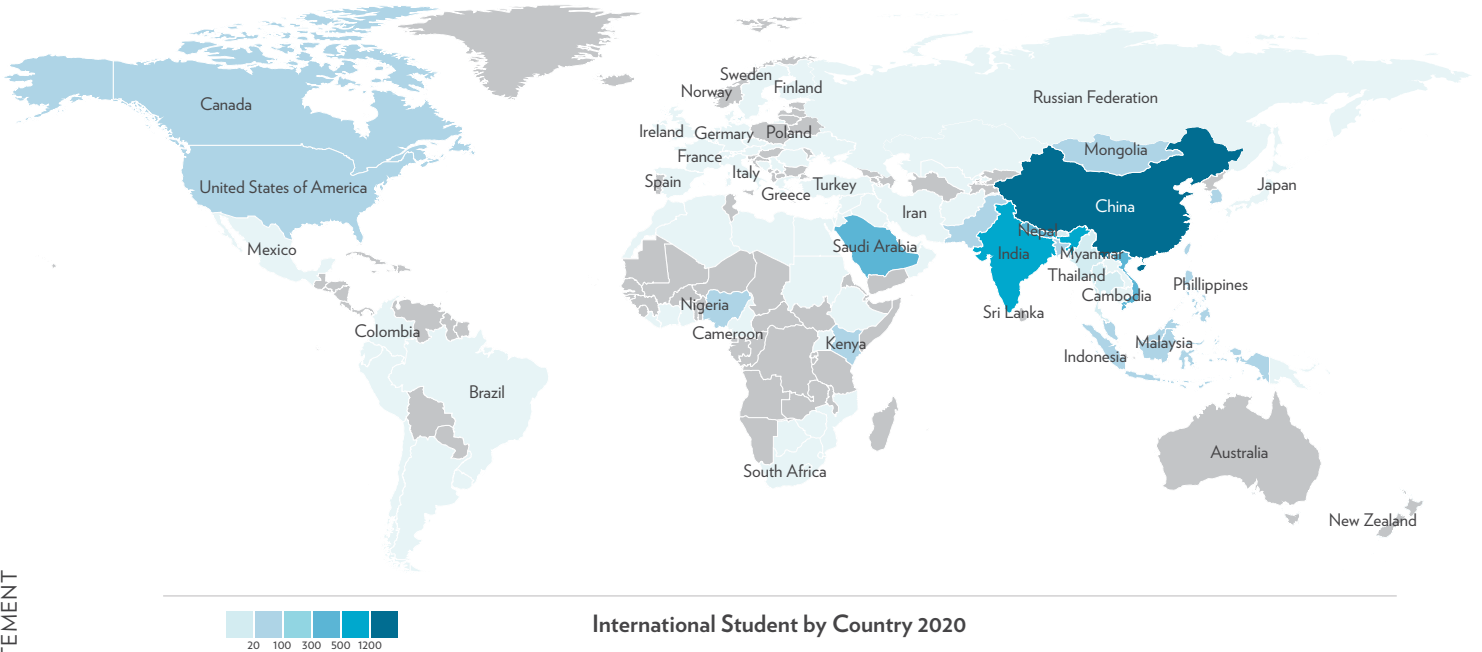
1. China
2. India
3. Bhutan
4. Nepal
5. Vietnam

The University reports just over 100 students come from countries rated "high" for the prevalence of modern slavery.

The diagram below illustrates the prevalence of modern slavery:



The diagram below illustrates the widespread locations across the globe from where the University engages students:



## Our Education Partners and Agents

The University has domestic and international partners and affiliates which support the University's operations. Aside from the University's main campus in Canberra (ACT), the University has partner arrangements across Australia with:

- Global Business College of Australia (Melbourne, Victoria)
- TAFE Queensland South Bank (Brisbane, Queensland)
- TAFE Queensland Mount Gravatt (Brisbane, Queensland)
- TAFE NSW Northern Sydney (Sydney, New South Wales)

The University has significant international partnerships with institutions for course delivery in the following countries:

- China
- Vietnam
- Bhutan
- Singapore

## Our Supply Chain

The University procures a wide range of goods and services from both domestic and international suppliers to support its operations.

### Our Suppliers

The University's supply chain includes suppliers, contractors, partners and affiliates (collectively, suppliers).

In the 2020 calendar year, the University engaged in financial transactions with over 4,000 suppliers. These 4,000 suppliers represent the University's "tier one" suppliers. Of those 4,000 tier one suppliers, 3,549 are located in Australia representing 85 per cent of the University's supply chain. The remaining 15 per cent of suppliers are located internationally.

Although the vast majority of the University's suppliers are located domestically, and 10 per cent of international suppliers limited to just 10 countries, the remaining five per cent of the University's suppliers are spread across the globe.

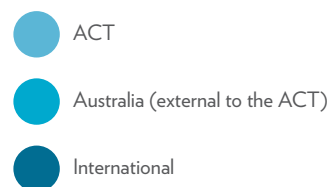
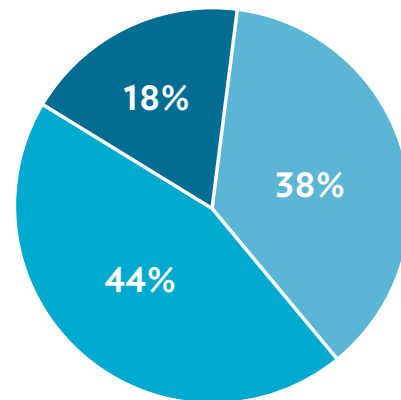
The top 20 countries of the University's international suppliers are:

1. **United States of America (USA)** (128 suppliers, 3 per cent)
2. **United Kingdom (UK)** (95 suppliers, 2 per cent)
3. **India** (40 suppliers, 1 per cent)
4. **China** (30 suppliers, 1 per cent)
5. **Singapore** (21 suppliers, less than 1 per cent)
6. **New Zealand** (20 suppliers, less than 1 per cent)
7. **Hong Kong** (18 suppliers, less than .5 per cent)
8. **Germany** (16 suppliers, less than .5 per cent)
9. **Vietnam** (16 suppliers, less than .5 per cent)
10. **Malaysia** (12 suppliers, less than .5 per cent)

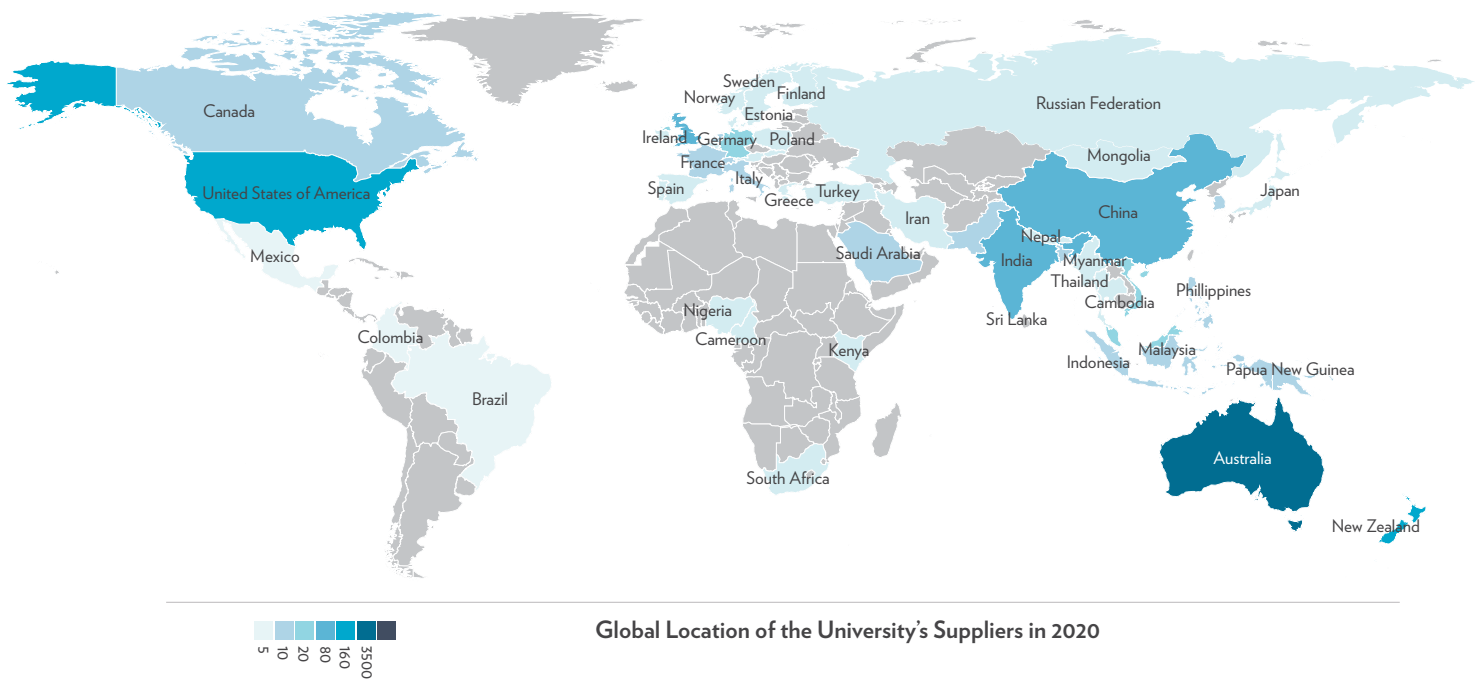
### Top 50 Suppliers

The University undertook a further assessment of its top 50 suppliers based on financial value. Of those 50 suppliers only nine are located internationally, and 19 are located and work solely within the ACT region.

### LOCATION OF THE UNIVERSITY'S TOP 50 SUPPLIERS IN 2020



The following graph depicts the location of all the University's suppliers in 2020.



### Top Supplier Industries

Of the University's top 50 suppliers based on financial value, the most common industries of which goods and services are procured from, determined based on financial value and significance to operations, are:

1. Construction Projects (10 suppliers)
2. Building and Maintenance (Nine suppliers)
3. Information Technology and Software (Nine suppliers)
4. Education and Student Services (Seven suppliers)

### Our People

The University employs just under 2000 staff. Of these staff, 1,883 are employees of the University on either a continuing, fixed term, casual or sessional basis, and 84 of these staff are the full or part-time staff, and casual staff of UCX.

Employees of the University are bound by the *Charter of Conduct and Values*, which sets out the values and standards of conduct for the University, and constitutes the basis of decision-making and behaviour in the University community.

The *Charter of Conduct and Values* is enforceable and seeks to provide an ethical framework which outlines the University's expectations of its employees whilst also clarifying the University's obligations and commitments. These standards are supported by the values and the University's strategic direction, fostering an ethical, collaborative and innovative environment.



# Risks of Modern Slavery Practices

Modern slavery is present in every country of the world, including Australia. The Global Slavery Index estimates there were 15,000 people living in Australia in 2018 that engaged in modern slavery practices.<sup>6</sup> There is an immeasurable amount of people victimised by modern slavery across the globe, working in the operations and supply chains of Australian businesses.

## Operational Risks

While the University's supply chain at the tier one level is relatively limited to Australian businesses with many being owned and operated locally in the ACT, the University acknowledges the presence of modern slavery even in Australia. The University prides itself on its global connectivity and operates on an international level every day through various academic and professional activities, including the recruitment of international staff and students.

## Education Partners and Agents

The University has education agents and education partners across the globe, including those identified as higher risk countries such as India and China. Education agents play an essential role in providing life-changing learning opportunities for students around the world.

The University endeavours to work only with education partners and agents who adhere to high ethical standards with due diligence processes. However, the University acknowledges the risk that its international education partners and agents may directly or indirectly be involved in modern slavery practices. For example, the use of threats, coercion or deception in order to recruit international students to the University.

## Academic and Professional Activities

The University engages people from all over the world to work both in Australia and internationally, to undertake academic and professional activities. One way the University engages in these activities is through education partners. Some of the University's education partners are located in countries considered to have a high prevalence of modern slavery. As a result, there is a risk that staff in these countries may directly or indirectly be involved in, or subject to incidents of modern slavery.

For example, the working conditions may not be at the appropriate standard, including excessive working hours and underpayment, and may be considered a form of modern slavery.

## Supply Chain Risks

In the 2020 calendar year, the University engaged with over 4,000 suppliers. Of these suppliers, 15 per cent were based outside of Australia, and the remaining 85 per cent were in Australia. The University has undertaken a preliminary risk assessment relating to those tier one suppliers.

## Location

Amongst the University's top 50 suppliers, at least 10 of those suppliers were identified as being either a global company with several subsidiary companies, or a global company belonging to a larger parent company also with numerous subsidiaries. The presence of global companies indicates larger and more complex operations and supply chains, which results in a decreased visibility over the operations and supply chains of those suppliers.

The University had eight suppliers located in three of the ten countries with the highest prevalence of modern slavery according to the Global Slavery Index.<sup>7</sup> Five of those suppliers are in Pakistan, two in Cambodia and one in Iran. The University acknowledges that there is a risk that its suppliers located in these countries may be directly or indirectly involved in modern slavery practices.

## Industry

The Global Slavery Index identifies the top 15 goods<sup>8</sup> at risk of being produced by modern slavery.<sup>9</sup> In 2018, Australia was the eighth highest consumer of those goods amongst the G20 countries, importing 12 billion dollars' worth of those goods. Australia's major imports of these goods were garments (i.e. clothing and accessories), electronics (i.e. computers and mobile phones), fish, rice and cocoa.<sup>10</sup>

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<sup>6</sup> Walk Free Foundation (n 1).

<sup>7</sup> Walk Free Foundation, The Global Slavery Index (Report, 2018).

<sup>8</sup> In order of ranking, cotton; bricks; garments; cattle; sugarcane; gold; carpets; coal; fish; rice; timber; brazil nuts and chestnuts; cocoa; diamonds; and electronics.

<sup>9</sup> Walk Free Foundation, The Global Slavery Index (Report, 2018) 220.

<sup>10</sup> Walk Free Foundation, The Global Slavery Index (Report, 2018) iv.

The University's top four industries of engagement based on financial value (in particular, "construction and projects", and "information technology and software"), generally interact with many of the goods listed as being at higher risk of being produced by modern slavery. The University considers that there is a risk that its suppliers in these industries, may be directly or indirectly engaging in incidents of modern slavery.

Many of the source countries for these goods are home to the suppliers used by the University in 2020. Those countries include China, Vietnam, Thailand, Brazil, Pakistan, India, South Korea, Indonesia, Russia, Japan, Nepal, Taiwan and Malaysia. The University had 134 suppliers in these countries.

The University acknowledges the risk that when engaging with suppliers in these countries, those suppliers may be directly or indirectly involved in modern slavery practices.

## Impact of COVID-19

The impact of COVID-19 on the higher education sector has seen an increased focus on cost reduction. The University acknowledges the risk that its partners, suppliers and affiliates, particularly lower cost suppliers, may be more likely to underpay or exploit their workers. This increases the risk of the University indirectly contributing to substandard working conditions.

In 2020, the University ensured it had ample and suitable cleaning and sanitising products available for staff, students and the wider University community in order to protect their health and safety. The manufacturing and cleaning industries are often at higher risk of involving modern slavery due to the complex and multi-layered hire and subcontracting arrangements.

# Actions Taken

## Treatment Actions

The University has taken various actions in order to minimise the risks of and eliminate modern slavery since the enactment of the Modern Slavery Act in 2018.

### Due Diligence

#### Procurement

The University conducts thorough assessments of suppliers during the due diligence process for procurements. For example, the University is aware that one of the highest risk areas for modern slavery is in the manufacturing of merchandise. For this reason, the University sources all branded merchandise from a supplier with a focus and policy on ethical sourcing. The University has a preferred supplier list which is used when possible and accounts for providers which have been recommended across the higher education sector and vetted by the University.

As an ACT statutory body, the University is also entitled to utilise current supplier arrangements put in place by ACT Shared Services Procurement.

#### Education Partners and Agents

Due diligence is conducted prior to the engagement or partnering with any new education partner or overseas entity. A comprehensive assessment of student applications is conducted where applications are received from "high risk" countries, and subsequent action is taken if a concern or issue arises.

If a recurrent agent issue or concern is identified, the University counsels that agent so the agent can understand the issue and its effect, and how it can be resolved. If the issue continues, the University may terminate the relationship with the agent. The review and management of recruitment practices by the University's agents is also a Commonwealth legislative requirement.<sup>11</sup>

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<sup>11</sup> Education Services and Overseas Students Act 2000 (Cth).

## Contractor Safety Management System (CSMS)

All contractors engaged to provide goods and services relating to the physical and environmental state of the University's campus, such as construction, design, facilities and maintenance services, security and parking, are engaged through the University's CSMS prequalification process. All suppliers engaged under the University's top two industries, i.e. "construction projects" and "building and maintenance" are assessed through the prequalification process.

This CSMS process includes assessment of the following factors:

- WHS Safety Management System review against ISO and the WHS Act 2011;
- ethical sourcing questionnaire;
- modern slavery review in accordance with the Modern Slavery Act;
- insurance compliance review;
- risk assessment review; and
- qualification and licencing audit.

The CSMS review and assessment process highlights any suppliers whose operations are inconsistent with the University's acceptable standard. There were no instances in 2020 where a risk relating to modern slavery has required further review by the University.

## Policy and Procedure

During 2020, the following policies and procedures were in effect and supported the University's goal to mitigate the risks of modern slavery in its operations and supply chain.

### Human Rights

The *Human Rights and Discrimination Policy* affirms the rights of all people, asserting the University's commitment to act against individuals who engage in conduct which limits the legislative rights of others<sup>13</sup>; and affirms that all University decisions will be made, and policies will be written and enacted with due consideration to human rights as expressed in the *Human Rights Act 2004 (ACT)*.

### Complaints and Grievances

The University has various processes in place to facilitate the handling of grievances and other concerns such as the University's management of human rights issues.

Students may refer to the *Student Grievance Resolution Policy* and staff may refer to the *Respect at Work (Prevention of Bullying) Policy* and the processes outlined in the *UC Enterprise Agreement*.

Members of the University or public may express dissatisfaction with decisions of the University or policies and processes of the University by writing to the Vice-Chancellor.

University staff and other persons are encouraged to report suspected corrupt conduct and allegations of maladministration within the University, including conduct contrary to the University's commitments regarding modern slavery and human rights. The *Public Interest Disclosure Act 2012 (ACT)* provides specific protections for staff reporting such conduct.

### Procurement

The University has a well-documented *Procurement Policy* and *Procurement Procedure* which outline due diligence that must be conducted at each stage of the procurement process.

### Freedom of Speech

The *Freedom of Speech Policy* supports the University's stance on the ability of anyone to enjoy the human right to freedom of speech and to engage in critical and free enquiry. The University encourages its community to participate in informed intellectual discourse and matters of public importance.

### Investment

The philosophy of the Investment Policy includes that the University is to be a socially responsible institution and a socially responsible investor, which includes the requirement to avoid any investment opportunities which are likely to cause social injury. Where an organisation is determined to behave in a manner inconsistent with the Investment Policy, the University may exclude that organisation and all associated holdings from the University's investment portfolio.

## University Networks

The University is a member of various networks which provide information and resource sharing opportunities for best practice across the higher education sector, including but not limited to:

- Australian University Procurement Network (AUPN)
- Tertiary Access Group (TAG)
- Society of University Lawyers (SOUL)

These groups provide a platform for members to share experiences with suppliers and to discuss and collaborate on other relevant issues, which has included modern slavery. The AUPN distributed specific modern slavery guidance material for use by university procurement teams.

## Remediation

Whilst instances of modern slavery were not identified in the University's operations and supply chain in 2020, the University intends to work with any parties found to have instances of modern slavery in their operations or supply chain by providing education, guidance and assistance as required.

## Effectiveness of Actions

The University established a Modern Slavery Working Group tasked with the management of the University's modern slavery commitments, obligations and overall response.

The University has commenced assessing the effectiveness of these actions primarily by seeking the feedback of staff, regarding:

- the use, effectiveness, and ability to conduct due diligence processes and how these processes could be improved;
- the frequency of discussions around modern slavery in the workplace, including incidences where advice may be sought or consideration required; and
- the ideal tools, training, and other resources to assist staff in realising the University's modern slavery commitments.

The University intends to further assess effectiveness by introducing key performance indicators to measure the effectiveness and success of the actions taken.

The University's work in this space is ongoing, and by committing to the continual monitoring of modern slavery risks and development of treatment actions and measures, the University will have an intrinsic ability to assess the effectiveness of its response.

## Future Commitments

The University is committed to reducing the risks of and eliminating modern slavery and will continue to undertake the following actions to support this commitment.

- The development and implementation of a University modern slavery-specific policy and procedure, as well as ensuring where applicable, the University's policies and procedures address the risks of modern slavery and endeavour to mitigate those risks.
- Working with suppliers, partners and stakeholders to conduct due diligence and risk assessments to ensure that the parties the University engages with are also committed to minimising the risks of modern slavery.
- Working with suppliers, partners and stakeholders to ensure best practice is being followed and to provide education and assistance where required so those parties may also prioritise the minimisation and elimination of modern slavery in their operations and supply chains.
- Promoting awareness of modern slavery through the implementation of training and the provision of materials, such as templates and other tools to enable staff, as well as suppliers, partners and other stakeholders, to identify and respond to risks of modern slavery.
- The development and implementation of customised training and tools for staff with specific responsibilities and engagement with modern slavery obligations.
- The development of modern slavery compliance and requirements clauses for use in University contract templates and other agreements.
- The development of modern slavery guidance material and an awareness campaign for students and providing ongoing support for students.
- Ensuring the University is held accountable for its commitments to eliminating modern slavery through regular reporting to the University's Audit and Risk Management Committee.
- Continuing to engage with and utilise the guidance materials provided and recommended by Australian Border Force and peak higher education bodies and affiliates.
- Undertaking in-depth analyses of the University's partners, suppliers and agents, including review of the subsequent tiers of the University's operations and supply chain.

# Consultation

The University has an effective and well embedded system of reporting and communication with its controlled entities. UCX officeholders are primarily University executive staff and one independent (external to the University) member. UC Global officeholders are all University executive staff.

UCX and UC Global have been included in the same consultation process that has occurred across all portfolios and business units of the University. Both senior management and middle management have been consulted with at every stage in the development of this statement and will continue to be included in all discussions and actions going forward.

# Other Information

This statement is made pursuant to section 13 of the *Modern Slavery Act 2018* (Cth) and constitutes the Modern Slavery Statement of the University of Canberra for the calendar year ending 31 December 2020 and has been approved by the Council of the University of Canberra at meeting C220 on 2 July 2021.

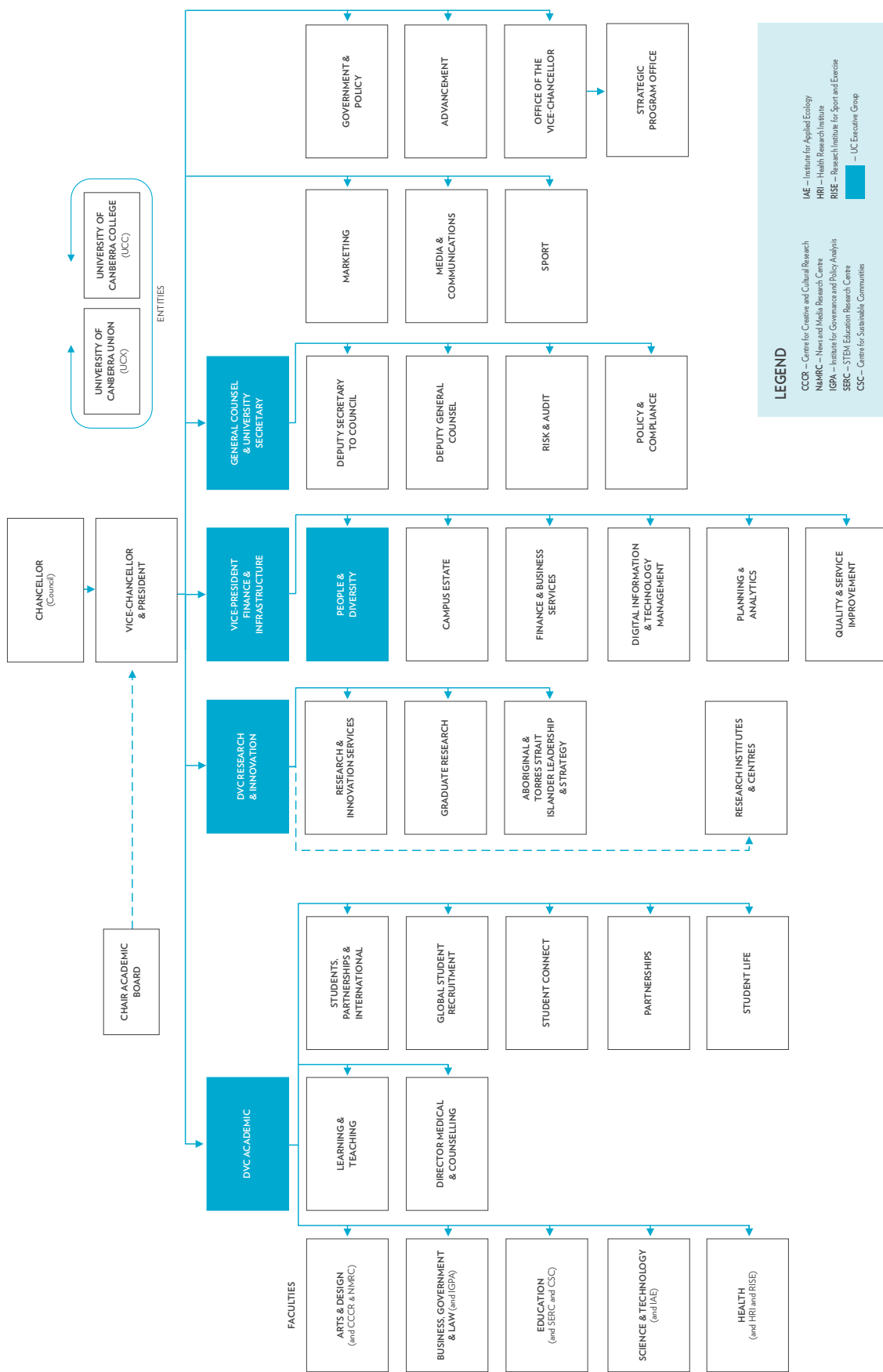


**Professor Paddy Nixon**

Vice-Chancellor and President

University of Canberra

# ANNEXURE A - UNIVERSITY ORGANISATIONAL CHART



**LEGEND**

- CCCR – Centre for Creative and Cultural Research
- IAE – Institute for Applied Ecology
- GNARC – News and Media Research Centre
- HRI – Health Research Institute
- IGPA – Institute for Governance and Policy Analysis
- RISE – Research Institute for Sport and Exercise
- SERC – STEM Education Research Centre
- CSC – Centre for Sustainable Communities
- UCU – UC Extensive Group



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