GUIDELINES TO COUNTER FOREIGN INTERFERENCE IN THE AUSTRALIAN UNIVERSITY SECTOR

University Foreign Interference Taskforce
November 2019

Appendix 2: Government departments and contacts

A range of Australian Government agencies support the university sector by providing services, guidance, advice and assistance. They do so in areas including international education, higher education, national security, protective security and regulatory matters. This following summarises some of the agencies and departments.

National Counter Foreign Interference Coordinator
The National Counter Foreign Interference Coordinator coordinates Australia's whole-of-government efforts to respond to acts of foreign interference by:

- engaging with the Australian National Intelligence Community in developing assessments of the threat, vulnerabilities and consequences of foreign interference;
- administering the CFI Strategy, that builds on Australia's existing counter foreign interference efforts across government, to create an integrated and coordinated domestic and international program that responds to foreign interference activities;
- coordinating outreach efforts and advice to sectors and systems at risk from foreign interference; and
- enhancing engagement with culturally and linguistically diverse communities to strengthen their ability to challenge manipulation and coercion from foreign actors.

Website: https://www.homeaffairs.gov.au/about-us/our-portfolios/national-security/countering-foreign-interference/cfi-coordinator

Department of Education
The Department of Education is responsible for national policies and programs that help Australians access quality early childhood education, school education, higher education, and international education and research.

Higher education and research are critical to build and maintain a responsive workforce and a strong innovation system, with the sector spanning undergraduate education through to senior research academics. A strong higher education sector also underpins the world-class reputation and international performance of Australian universities, attracts international students and researchers to Australia, and forges industry collaboration.

The department supports higher education and research through policies, funding and programs.

The department works with the higher education sector to drive innovation and areas of specialisation across universities, embed fairness and equitable access to university for prospective and current students, and to ensure our universities are financially sustainable and affordable into the long term.

The department also drives the Australian Government's *National Strategy for International Education 2025* and works with domestic and international stakeholders to support the sustainable expansion of Australia's trade in education services. The department fosters international collaboration and partnerships with foreign governments and sector stakeholders, identifies

opportunities to expand international education engagement, promotes student and researcher mobility between institutions and facilitates the global exchange of knowledge.

Website: https://www.education.gov.au/

Australian Security Intelligence Organisation

The Business and Government Liaison Unit (BGLU) is the principal interface between the Australian Security Intelligence Organisation (ASIO) and government and industry stakeholders. The BGLU provides information via a number of means including a subscriber-controlled website, ASIO-hosted briefings, face to face engagement and participation in joint government and industry forums. All these mechanisms are aimed at providing risk management decision-makers within government and industry with the most current security intelligence and protective security advice to assist them to:

- recognise and respond to national security threats;
- develop appropriate risk mitigation strategies; and
- provide informed briefings to executives and staff.

The BGLU secure website operates on a free subscription basis. The BGLU website contains intelligence-backed reporting on the domestic and international security environment. This reporting is drawn from the full range of ASIO's information holdings and expertise (including the multi-agency National Threat Assessment Centre, ASIO's protective security area (T4) and the Counter-Espionage and Interference Division) and some foreign intelligence partner agency reports.

Website: https://www.bglu.asio.gov.au/

Phone: (02) 6234 1668

Email: bglu@asio.gov.au

Australian Signals Directorate

The Australian Cyber Security Centre (ACSC), in the Australian Signals Directorate (ASD), is the Australian Government's lead on national cyber security. It brings together cyber security capabilities from across the Australian Government to improve the cyber resilience of the Australian community and support the economic and social prosperity of Australia in the digital age.

The ACSC drives cyber resilience across the whole of the economy, including critical infrastructure and systems of national interest, federal, state and local governments, small and medium business, academia, the not-for-profit sector and the Australian community.

It is the hub for private and public sector collaboration and information-sharing, to prevent and combat cyber security threats and to minimise harm to all Australians.

More specifically, the ACSC:

- responds to cyber security threats and incidents as Australia's computer emergency response team (CERT);
- collaborates with the private and public sector to share information on threats and increase resilience;
- works with governments, industry and the community to increase awareness of cyber security; and
- provides information, advice and assistance to all Australians.

Website: https://www.asd.gov.au/cyber

ReportCyber Website: https://www.cyber.gov.au/report

Email: asd.assist@defence.gov.au

Hotline: 1300 CYBER1 (1300 292 371)

Attorney-General's Department

The Attorney-General's Department's (AGD) purpose is to achieve a just and secure society through the maintenance and improvement of Australia's law, justice, security and integrity frameworks. As of 29 May 2019, AGD is also responsible for industrial relations. AGD delivers programs and policies to maintain and improve Australia's law and justice framework; promote and protect government integrity and transparency; and uphold the rule of law. The department's work is central to the productivity, freedom and wellbeing of all Australians. As part of its security and integrity functions, AGD administers the Protective Security Policy Framework and the Foreign Influence Transparency Scheme.

The **Protective Security Policy Framework** (PSPF) assists Australian Government entities to protect their people, information and assets, at home and overseas.

The PSPF articulates government protective security policy and provides guidance for all entities to support the effective implementation of the policy across the areas of security governance, personnel security, physical security and information security. While the PSPF is mandatory for certain government entities, its principles and guidance represent better practice for all agencies and organisations.

The PSPF is applied through a security risk management approach, with a focus on fostering a positive culture of security within the entity and across the government. Entities realise the PSPF's outcomes by considering the framework's guidance and using security measures proportionately to address their unique security risk environments. This allows entities to apply the PSPF in a way that best suits their individual security goals and objectives, risk and threat environment, risk tolerance and security capability.

Website: https://www.protectivesecurity.gov.au/

Enquiry Form: https://www.protectivesecurity.gov.au/Pages/Contact.aspx

The **<u>Foreign Influence Transparency Scheme</u>** commenced on 10 December 2018. Its purpose is to provide the public and government decision-makers with visibility of the nature, level and extent of foreign influence on Australia's government and political process.

The scheme introduces registration obligations for persons and entities who have arrangements with, and undertake certain activities on behalf of, foreign principals. Whether a person or entity is required to register will depend on who the foreign principal is, the nature of the activities undertaken, the purpose for which the activities are undertaken, and in some cases, whether the person has held a senior public position in Australia.

Website: https://www.ag.gov.au/transparency

Public register: https://transparency.ag.gov.au/

Phone: 02 6141 3222 (Foreign Influence Transparency Scheme helpline)

Email: transparency@ag.gov.au

Department of Defence

Defence Export Controls (DEC) in the Department of Defence is responsible to the Minister for Defence for regulating the export of defence and strategic goods and technologies.

These goods and technologies include:

- military items designed or adapted for military purposes or those that are inherently lethal, incapacitating or destructive; and
- commercial items and technologies that may be used or adapted for use in a military program or contribute to the development and production of chemical, biological or nuclear weapons systems.

Australia's export controls enable the export of defence and strategic goods and technology where it is consistent with Australia's national interests and international obligations.

Website: https://www.defence.gov.au/ExportControls/

Phone: 1800 661066

Email: ExportControls@defence.gov.au

Department of Industry, Innovation and Science

The Department of Industry, Innovation and Science (DIIS) plays a central role in promoting a globally integrated, digital and technology-driven economy.

Its focus is on helping Australian industry, business, and research institutions navigate market disruptions and seek new opportunities, including those presented by digital transformation.

This support leads to the growth of globally competitive businesses to support job creation and a strong and secure economy

DIIS also invests in and supports scientific research, infrastructure, skills development, collaboration and engagement that underpins new discoveries. The portfolio supports research agencies to ensure they are well positioned to undertake high-quality research for Australia.

In addition to administering a range of competitive grant programs, under the Global Innovation Strategy, aimed at helping Australia's innovative entrepreneurs and researchers to collaborate and utilise international opportunities, DIIS provides additional resources to aid their efforts.

Of particular interest is the factsheet '*A guide to undertaking international collaboration*', providing a high-level summary of key challenges and strategies Australian researchers and institutions should consider when pursuing international collaboration. The factsheet also contains a series of links to additional support available from the Australian Government.

Website: https://www.industry.gov.au/strategies-for-the-future/increasing-international-collaboration

The Department is also responsible for policy relating to the Cooperative Research Centres Program, which links researchers with industry to focus on research and development towards use and commercialisation.

Website: https://www.business.gov.au/assistance/cooperative-research-centres-programme

Business.gov.au provides services from across government to support your business. The website connects to information, grants, registrations and support to help your business succeed in Australia.

Website: https://www.business.gov.au

Risk management: https://www.business.gov.au/Risk-management

Phone: 13 28 46