

The Honourable Grace Grace MP
Minister for Education and Minister for Industrial Relations
PO Box 15033, City East Qld 4002

I am pleased to submit for presentation to the Parliament the Annual Report 2018 and financial statements for The University of Queensland.

I certify that this Annual Report complies with:

- the prescribed requirements of the *Financial Accountability Act 2009* and the *Financial and Performance Management Standard 2009*
- the detailed requirements set out in the *Annual report requirements for Queensland Government agencies*, June 2018.

A checklist outlining the annual reporting requirements can be found at uq.edu.au/about/annual-reports.

Yours sincerely



Peter N Varghese, AO
Chancellor, The University of Queensland

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PUBLIC AVAILABILITY NOTE

This volume and the Annual Financial Statements (Volumes 1 and 2) are available from the UQ Office of Marketing and Communications (see back cover for contact details) or online at uq.edu.au/about/annual-reports.

The following information is also available online at uq.edu.au/about/annual-reports and on the Queensland Government Open Data website at data.qld.gov.au:

- Consultancies
- Overseas travel.

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Cover: The BLOOM – A UQ Jacaranda Festival event was held for the first time at the St Lucia campus from 22–26 October.

In pursuing our vision of 'knowledge leadership for a better world', The University of Queensland (UQ) contributes directly to the Government's key objective to create jobs in a strong economy, by engaging more young Queenslanders in education. In parallel, UQ's research is tackling head-on some of the major challenges facing Queensland, and indeed the world.

Thanks

Throughout 2018, our broad range of achievements helped create a healthier, safer and more diverse community as a result of the unwavering endeavours of our staff, and the continued commitment of our partners, donors and supporters.

I also acknowledge the fine work undertaken by our 34th Senate, led by Peter Varghese, AO. With their assistance, we continue to work towards our vision.

For this, I want to say thank you.

Continuous evolution

When an Act of Queensland Parliament established The University of Queensland in 1909, it was known as 'the people's university' and throughout the decades has remained so, playing a key role in the development of our state.

Today, UQ continues to focus on serving the people and advancing Queensland – but we now engage deeply with global communities and issues as well.

While the majority of our students are from Queensland, they are joined by a diverse community of more than 18,000 international students. And although many of our students remain here after graduation, contributing daily to the state's economy and society, we also have graduates in 170 countries outside Australia, all of whom will forever include a chapter—at least—featuring Queensland.

Commercialising our innovation

Likewise, our research and innovation have huge international implications, as seen in the appetite of global pharmaceutical companies to invest in UQ startups like Spinifex and Inflazome. All are testament to the success of our outstanding researchers and UniQuest, our commercialisation entity, which this year celebrated the launch of its 100th startup company—a milestone unsurpassed by any other Australian university, raising more than \$700 million funds in the process.

Projecting Queensland globally

Like other Australian universities, we operate in a challenging and, at times, uncertain national policy and funding environment.

Pictured above right at the launch of the Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP) in December: Vice-Chancellor and President Professor Peter Høj; Chancellor Peter Varghese, AO; RAP Steering Committee Co-Chair Gaja Kerry Charlton; and Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Indigenous Engagement) Professor Bronwyn Fredericks.

VICE-CHANCELLOR AND PRESIDENT'S REVIEW

Being a global enterprise competing with well-resourced institutions worldwide, we must also be alert to fluctuations in international geopolitics and markets.

It is important for the future of our state and country to have a Queensland university in the top tier of the world's 10,000-plus universities. UQ has worked hard and strategically to remain ranked in the global top 50 in 2018, even though the competition for this coveted territory has intensified.

This stature is important to Queensland because it brings a range of premiums.

Economy injection

UQ has been recognised for its significant contribution to Queensland's export sector. International students attending UQ in 2018 contributed \$570 million in direct tuition fees alone. Other spending—such as retail, accommodation, entertainment and tourism—has a multiplier effect on the economy. A 2018 London Economics report found that just three international students at a Group of Eight university, such as UQ, generate \$1 million in economic impact. Moreover, the immediate and long-term cultural and social flow-on effect is profound. Many of our former students become lifelong de facto ambassadors for Queensland and Australia, paying dividends through trade, tourism, diplomacy, and future education exports.

Research towards a better future

In 2018, UQ attracted \$60.5 million in new funding from the Australian Research Council (ARC), more than any other Australian institution. We also received generous support from state and federal government and philanthropy, which allowed us, for example, to conduct pioneering research in brain sciences. A notable development has been in progressing the use of ultrasound technology for a non-invasive targeted technique that could delay the effects of dementia, a condition expected to affect almost 1.1 million Australians by 2056. Clinical safety trials will commence in late 2019.

Corporate investment and partnerships

The demand to partner with UQ remains strong, as exemplified in 2018 by the \$500 million Siemens software grant and the ongoing co-location of Boeing Research and Technology Australia on our St Lucia campus (Boeing's first such arrangement in the Asia-Pacific region). These partnerships are critical to drive sustainable economic growth for



Queensland, and ensure a workforce skilled in the jobs of the future. From a different perspective, our partnerships with alumni have seen a range of generous scholarships offered to current students.

Protecting our environment

The University is actively involved in a number of research and infrastructure projects that will ultimately create a more sustainable world for us all. For example, we are helping to protect the Great Barrier Reef by testing water that is discharged to the reef to ensure it is not toxic; developing next-generation fertilisers that reduce nutrient run-off; and recycling dead coral to promote new coral growth after cyclone damage. Closer to home, with the establishment of a \$125 million solar farm near Warwick, UQ is set to become the world's first major university to become energy neutral by 2020, completely offsetting our electricity usage through our own renewable assets.

Progressing towards our objectives

I would also like to share with you some of the notable achievements of our students, staff and alumni in 2018. They hint at progress towards UQ's Strategic Plan objectives, and reflect the specific ways that UQ serves our state's community objectives.

- UQ is the top-ranking Australian institute for research outputs in the *Nature* Index.
- We launched UQ's inaugural Reconciliation Action Plan, demonstrating the University's commitment to building respectful relationships and opportunities between Aboriginal, Torres Strait Islander and non-Indigenous peoples.

- We partnered with the Indian Institute of Technology Delhi (IITD) to jointly train scholarship-supported Doctor of Philosophy candidates who will focus on solving urgent problems facing society.
- We reached over 75 per cent of our \$500 million philanthropic target to fund students and research that will benefit our communities across the globe.
- Graduate, teacher and Master of Philosophy student **Graham Akhurst** became the first Indigenous Australian to win a coveted Fulbright WG Walker scholarship (announced in 2018 for 2019).
- The creators of a popular online criminology course won the illustrious 2018 edX Prize for Exceptional Contributions in Online Teaching and Learning.
- A team led by **Dr Jacqui Romero** and **Dr Fabio Costa** published a quantum physics paper that was named a 'Top Ten Breakthrough of the Year'.
- We continued to upgrade our facilities and services to provide a better experience for our students and researchers on campus.

In 2018, the world gained new knowledge, thanks in part to UQ. Research contributed to improving and saving lives around the world. Education lifted people out of poverty and gave new hope to families and entire communities. Progress occurred across the gamut of what some broadly call 'human endeavour'. And, by helping create such progress, UQ generated some optimism for the future.

This is a priceless gift.

Professor Peter Høj, AC
Vice-Chancellor and President