

2020

THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

STATEMENT

University of Canberra Annual Report 2019

Chris Steel MLA  
Minister for Tertiary Education

As the Minister for Tertiary Education, I am pleased to table the University of Canberra's (UC) Annual Report for 2019 (the Annual Report).

Firstly I would like to acknowledge UC's former Vice-Chancellor, Professor Deep Saini, who led the University from 2016 to the end of 2019. Professor Saini's hard work and dedication to UC was instrumental in positioning the university where it is today. Professor Saini has left a lasting legacy here in Canberra and I wish him all the best in his new role as President and Vice-Chancellor of Dalhousie University, Canada.

I would also like to welcome UC's new Vice-Chancellor, Professor Paddy Nixon who commenced in the role in April 2020. He begins his role amid extraordinary circumstances for our community and our tertiary education sector. I look forward to working with Professor Nixon and the University of Canberra as we emerge from the challenges caused by COVID 19.

This year, UC will mark 30 years of operation as a university. As the start of this year has so far presented extraordinary challenges for UC and the whole of the higher education sector, the Annual Report reminds us of UC's important work and achievements.

In 2019 UC was elevated into the top 200 globally ranked universities according to Times Higher Education, which also made it the 10th highest-ranked university in Australia. Times Higher Education also named UC one of the top 50 global universities younger than 50 years old. This rise was the most rapid of any university in the world. This is a credit to the hard-working staff at the university and their dedication to its students.

UC continues to make major contributions to global knowledge. UC's research disciplines deemed to be 'above' and 'well-above' world class by Excellence in

Research for Australia have more than doubled in less than three years, to include six fields being ranked 'well above world standard.' It has deepened partnerships with education providers in India, Bangladesh, Bhutan, China and Vietnam, which will help Canberra grow its linkages as a hub in the global knowledge economy.

2019 saw the expansion of the Affiliated Schools Program, a partnership with the ACT Department of Education. The Affiliated Schools Program allows schools in the Canberra region to connect with the University as part of student teacher training and professional development. Its focus is on teacher development in the field and undertaking classroom-based research. Five new schools signed on in 2019, bringing the total number of participating schools to 26.

Last year, the Canberra Specialist Medical Centre at UC was officially opened by the Minister for Health. Major tenants include the Icon Cancer Centre, UC allied health services, and QScan, bringing together researchers, students and health providers to offer specialised services to Canberrans.

It is also worth taking this moment to note that UC, as the Territory's leading educator for allied health providers, is also making vital contributions to Canberra's response to COVID-19.

UC staff and students have supported frontline health workers, have augmented Canberra's allied health workforce and undertaken research to ensure the vast majority of Canberrans have stayed healthy and safe amid this pandemic and to inform our public health strategies.

The 2019 annual report illustrates the important achievements of the last year and the important role UC continues to play for Canberra and the surrounding region.

**Ends**