

Implementation of recommendations from *Change the course: National report on sexual assault and sexual harassment at Australian universities*

University name: Edith Cowan University (ECU)		
Recommendation no.	Action already taken	Planned/future action
1	<p>ECU's <i>Respect. Now. Always.</i> Advisory Group was established in September 2017. The draft <i>ECU Respect. Now. Always. Plan</i> was provided to all students and staff for feedback in May 2018, via email and student forums. ECU's <i>Respect. Now. Always. Plan</i> was finalised in June 2018, incorporating the feedback received.</p> <p>ECU hosted Universities Australia's <i>Respect. Now. Always.</i> workshop "Sharing Knowledge, Experience and New Approaches" at the Joondalup Campus in April 2018. The workshop enabled Western Australian universities to share approaches and expertise.</p>	<p>ECU will publish a report on its progress in February 2019, as recommended.</p> <p>In the interim, the University has been contacted by several organisations requesting progress updates. ECU urges the AHRC to take an active co-ordination role so that interested parties may be referred to these AHRC updates, where information for all universities is available in one place.</p>
2	<p>ECU's <i>Respect. Now. Always.</i> Advisory Group established a working group to lead ECU's responses to the recommendations for provision of education and training. The working group has evaluated several options to determine what training will best meet the educational needs of ECU's students, with the intention of this being rolled out to all students in 2019.</p> <p>Training is already in place for staff (particularly those likely to receive disclosures), and selected student groups, e.g. those with leadership responsibilities and those in residential accommodation.</p>	<p>The training program will be rolled out to all students once evaluated and finalised.</p>

3	<p>Information about reporting procedures and support services is disseminated in multiple ways. The <i>ECU Student Guide</i> has been updated, the orientation program for new students has been reviewed, <i>Respect. Now. Always.</i> campaign materials are displayed prominently on ECU campuses, and students and staff have been kept informed of developments via email and face-to-face forums.</p>	<p>ECU will review the information currently provided to students travelling overseas on student exchange or study tours, to include information about cultural norms in the countries visited.</p>
4	<p>An independent, external audit of ECU's policies and procedures is being commissioned to provide the University with advice on further opportunities for improvement.</p> <p>In the interim, the reporting procedures, <i>Prevention of Harassment, Bullying, Discrimination and Violence</i> policy, and ECU website have been reviewed and updated.</p> <p>ECU offers multiple reporting pathways to allow students to choose how and to whom they report, according to their own preferences, e.g. counselling, security, health services. ECU also has a dedicated phone number and email address for reporting sexual assault for students who are reluctant or unable to make a report in person, or prefer these methods of communication.</p>	<p>When the independent review is complete, ECU will update its <i>Respect Now Always Plan</i> with any new recommendations.</p>
5	<p>Specialist training has been undertaken by professional staff likely to receive disclosures, including counselling, health services, residential accommodation services, human resources, and security services. Student leaders have also received training.</p>	<p>Specialist training will be offered to academic staff.</p>
6	<p>The University's current complaints system stores information securely and confidentially; however, ECU is implementing a new complaints system to enhance reporting capabilities.</p>	

7	<p>ECU has audited its counselling services to assess capacity and training, including the wait time for appointments. The audit found that emergency appointments are available every day, and the wait time for standard appointments is generally shorter than those of the other WA universities. All counselling staff have undertaken specialist training in supporting those who have experienced sexual assault.</p>	
8		<p>Consistent with the national approach, ECU students will be surveyed every three years.</p>
9	<p>The University is commissioning an independent audit of residential accommodation, as per the recommendations.</p> <p>In addition, ECU has reviewed its physical campus security measures, upgraded the lighting across the three campuses, and introduced a safety smartphone app. The University is also working to increase the perception of the 'friendliness' and approachability of security staff by consulting with students on a new uniform and team name.</p>	<p>When the independent review is complete, ECU will update its <i>Respect Now Always Plan</i> with any new recommendations.</p>