

The Australian National University

Attestation Statement

Freedom of Speech and Academic Freedom Annual Report 2023

The ANU has a [policy](#) that upholds freedom of speech and academic freedom as paramount values, as required under the French Model Code. The ANU maintains an institutional environment in which freedom of speech and academic freedom are upheld and protected. The ANU addresses questions in relation to the management of academic freedom and freedom of speech issues promptly, actively, and in good faith.

Managing freedom of speech and academic freedom in 2023

The ANU routinely receives a small number of freedom of speech and academic freedom oriented complaints via existing ANU channels including the Deans of Staff and Students. All formal complaints in 2023 were addressed in accordance with the University's [Staff](#) and [Student](#) Grievance Resolution Policies and Procedures and with reference to the [Staff](#) and [Student](#) Codes of Conduct.

In 2023 the Academic Board initiated an annual report on academic freedom reviewing formal complaints concerning issues of freedom of speech and academic freedom over the course of the year. This report was submitted to the sixth meeting of the Academic Board in 2023 on 28 November. This report will monitor issues, should they arise and any trends that might emerge.

Also in 2023, the Vice-Chancellor deferred to the ANU Academic Freedom Expert Reference Group (AFERG), established by Academic Board in 2022, to give advice on the application of the Academic Freedom Policy (initiated in 2021). The group convened in early 2023 to discuss the application of policy in relation to a complex academic freedom matter and found that the policy was robust and becoming well integrated into the ANU and its policy suite.