
Summary of QoN concerns

From Scott, Fiona (Sen D. Pocock) <Fiona.Scott@aph.gov.au>

Date Tue 7/10/2025 10:04

To Rebekah Brown <@anu.edu.au>

 1 attachment (1 MB)

250912 ANU MISLEADING ANSWERS.pdf;

You don't often get email from fiona.scott@aph.gov.au. [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear Vice-Chancellor,

Thank you for your call earlier and your message which I have shared with Senator Pocock and which he greatly appreciated.

As promised, please find attached a summary of the concerns with responses provided at the hearing on 12 August.

A letter will follow identifying key data and documents Senator Pocock will seek at Estimates on Friday.

Thank you again,
Fiona

Fiona Scott | Chief of Staff

Office of Senator David Pocock

 | Fiona.Scott@aph.gov.au

Parliament House | +61 2 6277 3117

Electorate Office | +61 2 6247 6444

[Shop 1, 25 Ernest Cavanagh St, Gungahlin, ACT 2912](#)

Senator.David.Pocock@aph.gov.au | www.davidpocock.com.au

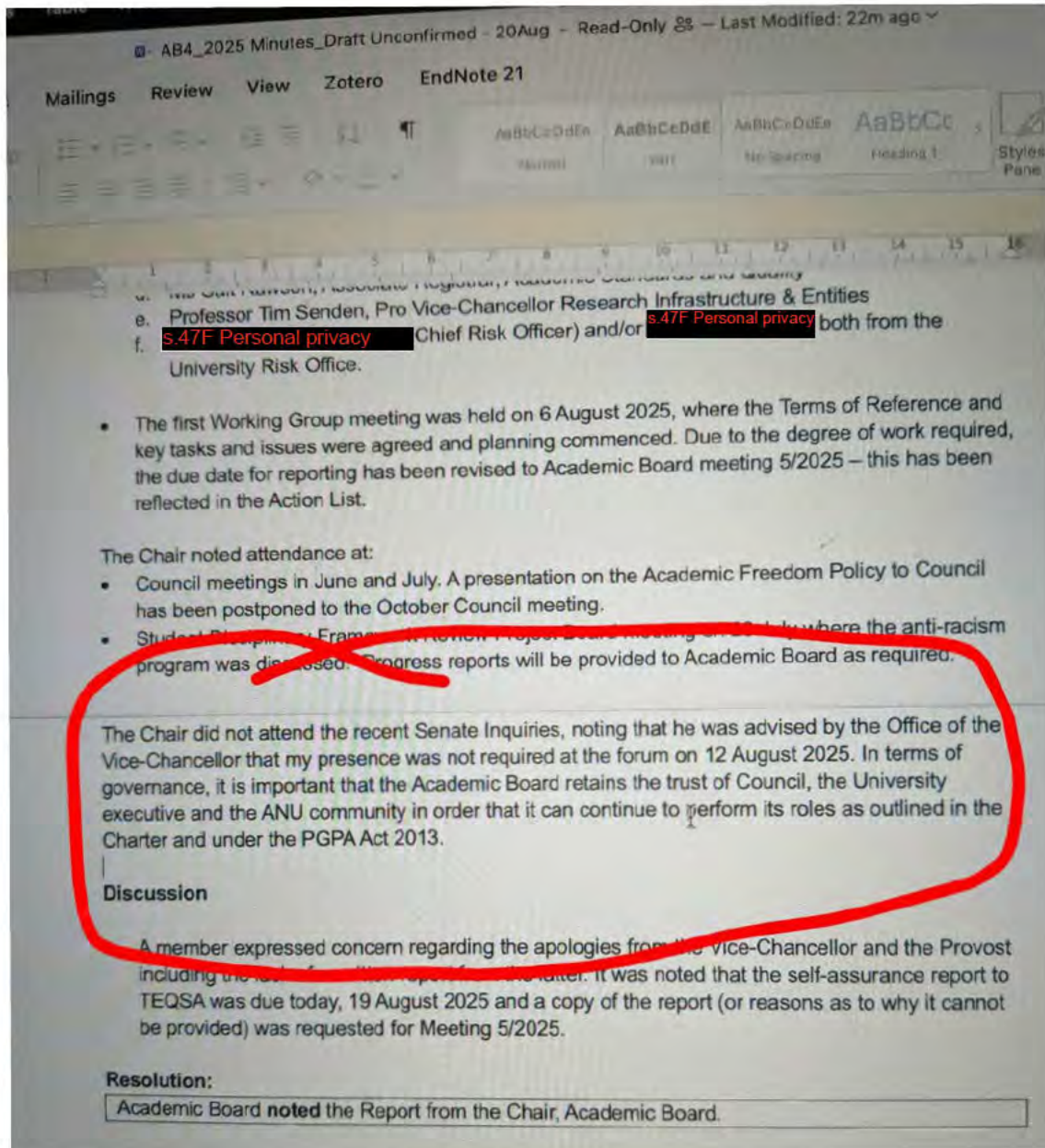


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250912 ANU MISLEADING ANSWERS

1. COO telling committee that no one from Council was available to attend the hearing

Anthony Connolly was prepared to attend but was told not to. The below is an extract from unconfirmed minutes of academic board.



Senator DAVID POCOCK: In closing, a couple of things really stand out to me. We're having a Senate inquiry into university governance and the ANU can't even provide a single person who's actually on council to this inquiry. That is such poor form. And I think the fact that we're talking about a university that's in dire straits financially and is the only Group of Eight

university that supposedly can't attract international students surely talks to some serious issues in terms of governance and management of the university, given your reputation.

Mr Churchill: There are a couple of things there. This meeting was called at relatively short notice—

Senator DAVID POCOCK: We're all here.

Mr Churchill: and some of our external members are much in demand. As I understand it, a number of them had board commitments in place for today. We did make the committee secretariat aware of who could attend on this day. We did offer to be rescheduled when more members were available.

In terms of growth, we're disappointed that we haven't met our NOSC. Our student load profile is a bit different to other universities in the sense that the majority of our international student intake was in semester 2. With the current ministerial directives, once you hit 80 per cent of your NOSC, the visa processing time extends. It just so happened that the timing of our semester 1 to semester 2 intake was quite unfavourable, and we hit a slowdown in visa processing at an unfortunate time for us.

2. QoN claiming that Andrew Meares is part of the ANU Government Relations team when website he is a "Professor" in the school of cybernetics



ANU School of Cybernetics

<https://cybernetics.anu.edu.au/people/andrew-meares>

Andrew Meares | ANU School of Cybernetics

Professor Andrew Meares is lead of the Cybernetic Futures group. Andrew is a Walkley award-winning photojournalist working at The Sydney Morning Herald for ...



The Australian National University

<https://researchportalplus.anu.edu.au/persons/andrew-...>

Andrew Meares - The Australian National University

Professor Andrew Meares is Deputy Director ANU School of Cybernetics and lead of the Cybernetic Futures group. Andrew is a Walkley award-winning ...

Senator DAVID POCOCK: Thank you for your time here. Mr Churchill, what is the role of Mr Andrew Meares, ANU Cybernetic Futures' lead, in the ANU's governance?

Mr Churchill: He doesn't have a role in the governance of the university and council and so on.

Senator DAVID POCOCK: Is there a reason why he's been in here today, taking notes?

Mr Churchill: I honestly didn't know he was. We have a number of people supporting us here today.

Senator DAVID POCOCK: Okay.

Mr Churchill: We want to make sure we've got an accurate record of what's happened so we can respond appropriately.

Senator DAVID POCOCK: Okay. But you weren't aware of that?

Mr Churchill: I honestly was not, no.

3. QoN answer - Misled about cease and desist letters - see below School of Music letters not included in QoN response

**Education and Employment Legislation Committee
Inquiry on the quality of governance at Australian higher education providers**

QUESTION ON NOTICE

Australian National University

Question No. GIQ 25-024

Senator Pocock provided in writing.

Cease and desist letters

Question

How many cease-and-desist letters have been sent to ANU students in the past 12 months? Please provide general details for each of these.

Answer

Two:

- 1) On 9 August 2024, from Campus Environment, addressed to the School of Art & Design (SOAD) Collective, in relation to involvement in incidents of defacement and graffiti within the female toilet facilities in a heritage listed property located on the ANU Acton campus.
- 2) On 28 August 2024, from Brand & Marketing, addressed to the listed media contact for ANU for Palestine, for using the University's name and logo, for the purposes of marketing and communications on a social media site and in communications materials.

4. QoN - Saying ANU doesn't require people to sign Deeds of Release/NDAs relating to workers comp/bullying

Multiple people have had to sign NDAs following successful workers comp claims

2. The University does not enter into NDAs in relation to Code of Conduct matters or workplace complaints processes.

The University's Deed of Release template, which may be used in employment separations, contains a standard non-disparagement clause. However, this is not a non-disclosure agreement.

No NDAs have been entered into in relation to Code of Conduct, complaints processes, or cultural issues such as bullying, discrimination or academic misconduct.

5. QoN Breach of confidentiality emails

Dave question

Is it correct that the Chancellor emailed Council members advising them that there would be no further out of session meetings until the "leaker" was identified? Is it correct that council members were prevented from accessing council systems?

ANU answer

This is incorrect. Please see emails attached with confidential correspondence on this issue between the Chancellor and Council members

Attachment with copies of Chancellor's emails show in fact they DID remove access - see below

From: Chancellor

Sent: Tuesday, 8 July 2025 2:44 PM

To: Alison Kitchen; Anthony Connolly; Brenna Barker-Lamb; Francis Markham; Genevieve Bell; Juliana Ng; Larry Marshall; Lyndall Strazdins; b477 Personal privacy Padma Raman; Rob Whitfield; Tanya Hosch; Will Burfoot

Cc: Director Governance; Philip Harrison

Subject: ANU Council meeting 3 July - update CONFIDENTIAL

Dear Council

Further to my email of 4 July, I provide the following update:

As to my concerns about the unauthorised provision of confidential information to the media arising from our Council meeting on 3 July, I confirm that I requested our General Counsel to advise on appropriate steps to investigate what could amount to a breach of the PGPA Act and the ANU Code of Conduct.

General Counsel has advised that an investigation is warranted, that an external independent investigator be engaged on the basis of an expeditious outcome and that it would be prudent to pause the scheduling of informal meetings or briefings until the investigation is completed.

Each Council member present at the meeting at the relevant time may be interviewed by the external independent investigator (this will also include the University Secretariat) and, as I am sure we wish to return to business as usual as soon as possible, I ask for your urgent co-operation.

Further, in the interests of good governance, I have requested that access to Convene be paused to ensure the integrity of our confidential information pending the outcome of the investigation.

If any member has any concerns, please contact me and I will try to resolve any issues.

In the meantime, I have been advised today that it would appear the contents of my email to Council of 4 July have also been provided to the media, and so this additional potential breach may also be referred to the external independent investigator.

Our next scheduled Council meeting is 1 August in Canberra (on the assumption that the additional travel costs can be met within budget).

Please note that this communication is also confidential to Council members.

Regards

Julie

Office of the Chancellor
Australian National University

RE: Correspondence from Senator Pocock

From Vice-Chancellor <vc@anu.edu.au>

Date Thu 9/10/2025 19:06

To Scott, Fiona (Sen D. Pocock) <Fiona.Scott@aph.gov.au>

Cc ANU Government Relations <government@anu.edu.au>; Senior Advisor - Provost <sa.provost@anu.edu.au>

Dear Senator Pocock and Fiona,

Thank you for your letter and for providing advanced notice of the information and documents you are seeking to have tabled at the Australian National University's scheduled appearance before the Senate Estimates Hearing tomorrow evening.

We will make every endeavour to have the requested documents available at the hearing. Should that not be possible, I will ensure you receive a clear update on their progress.

Thank you for your continued advocacy for the wellbeing of our staff and students. It is my priority to ensure that appropriate supports are in place ahead of the hearing and more broadly across our community.

I would like to assure you that a variety of professional supports have been offered to Dr Allen, consistent with the University's policies and procedures. Dr Allen was also asked whether there were any additional supports she required. In line with the Privacy Act and the particularly sensitive nature of personal health information, I am not able to comment on specific interventions. However, I am confident that the necessary measures have been taken, and we remain in close contact with Dr Allen to ensure she continues to be appropriately supported.

I appreciate your concern and share your willingness to work collaboratively in support of our community.

Kind Regards,

Rebekah

Professor Rebekah Brown FASSA
Interim Vice-Chancellor & President

From: Scott, Fiona (Sen D. Pocock) <Fiona.Scott@aph.gov.au>

Sent: Thursday, 9 October 2025 3:35 PM

To: Vice-Chancellor <vc@anu.edu.au>

Cc: ANU Government Relations <government@anu.edu.au>

Subject: Correspondence from Senator Pocock

You don't often get email from fiona.scott@aph.gov.au. [Learn why this is important](#)
Good afternoon,

Please find attached correspondence from Senator Pocock for the interim Vice-Chancellor.

Please also pass on his thanks for the news today of a halt to the restructures of CASS – we have already received an avalanche of positive feedback.

With many thanks,

Fiona

Fiona Scott | Chief of Staff

Office of Senator David Pocock

M| s.47F Personal privacy E| Fiona.Scott@aph.gov.au

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Electorate Office | +61 2 6247 6444

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Senator.David.Pocock@aph.gov.au | www.davidpocock.com.au



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Professor Rebekah Brown
Interim Vice-Chancellor
The Australian National University
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Via email: vc@anu.edu.au, cc government@anu.edu.au

Dear Vice-Chancellor,

Thank you for your open and proactive engagement with me since your appointment. As foreshadowed, I am writing to you ahead of the Australian National University's (ANU) scheduled appearance before the Senate Standing Committee on Education and Employment Committee this coming Friday as part of Supplementary Budget Estimates.

As you would be aware, the ANU has previously faced criticism for providing false and misleading evidence to the Committee. My office has shared with you a summary of my concerns relating to the most recent responses provided and I look forward to the ANU providing updated information in due course.

Ahead of Friday's hearing I would like to provide you with advance notice of the documents I will be asking the ANU to table and the key topics on which I will be seeking further information.

I would also like to seek your assurance that appropriate supports are being put in place for staff and students ahead of the hearing and for Dr Allen in particular. In my view there was inadequate support offered to the ANU Community under the previous Vice-Chancellor's leadership following the 12 August hearing. As part of your commendable efforts to rebuild trust with the ANU community, ensuring additional supports are put in place ahead of the hearing would be deeply appreciated.

Specifically regarding Dr Allen, I understand that she has sought help from the ANU to cover legal costs upfront during the various investigations. I also understand that providing teaching assistance, for example for marking, could be another way of ensuring Dr Allen is supported at this time and given the length of time it has taken to adequately investigate her workplace grievance.

I have previously asked the ANU to provide data regarding the total number of sick leave days from 1 January 2023 to 31 July 2025 broken down by work unit level. ANU advised that

the data cannot be disaggregated in the time available. Any information that you can provide about overall trends in sick leave for this time period would be appreciated.

To assist the Committee with its inquiries, I ask that you come prepared to table the following information:

Perth office reports

- Perth office report 2020
- Perth office report 2021
- Perth office report 2022
- Perth office report 2023
- Perth office report 2024
- Perth office report 2025

Independent investigation into Dr Allen's complaint

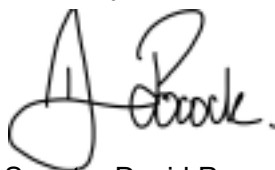
- A copy of the contract that the ANU entered into **s.47F Personal privacy** investigating Dr Liz Allen's Complaint against the University and its senior leaders.
- All materials provided related to the contract for the investigator
- A copy of **s.47F Personal privacy**

Financials

- A copy of the latest budget forecasts

Thank you for your time in considering the above. Should your office require any further information please do not hesitate to have them contact my Chief of Staff, Fiona Scott, on **s.47F Personal** or fiona.scott@aph.gov.au

Sincerely,



Senator David Pocock

9 October 2025

RE: Correspondence from Senator Pocock

From Scott, Fiona (Sen D. Pocock) <Fiona.Scott@aph.gov.au>
Date Fri 10/10/2025 16:19
To Vice-Chancellor <vc@anu.edu.au>
Cc ANU Government Relations <government@anu.edu.au>

Thank you very much Vice-Chancellor, I will let the Senator know.

Fiona Scott | Chief of Staff
Office of Senator David Pocock
s.47F Personal privacy | E | Fiona.Scott@aph.gov.au

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Senator.David.Pocock@aph.gov.au | www.davidpocock.com.au



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From: Vice-Chancellor <vc@anu.edu.au>
Sent: Friday, 10 October 2025 4:12 PM
To: Scott, Fiona (Sen D. Pocock) <Fiona.Scott@aph.gov.au>
Cc: ANU Government Relations <government@anu.edu.au>
Subject: RE: Correspondence from Senator Pocock

Dear Senator Pocock,

Thank you again for your correspondence yesterday and for providing advanced notice of the documents you are seeking to have tabled at the Australian National University's appearance before the Senate Estimates hearing this evening.

As promised, I am writing to provide an update on your request in advance of the hearing.

Perth Office Reports

- the University will provide redacted copies of the Perth Office Reports (2020–2025). These documents include personal information, and redactions will need to be applied to protect the

identities of individuals, including prospective donors in accordance with privacy obligations. I will be providing the reports as soon as practical.

Financial Information

- the University will provide the budget forecast as requested

Sick Leave Data

- the University will provide the sick leave data for the specified period as requested

Independent Investigation

- I am seeking advice regarding what information the University can provide to the Committee without prejudicing the active investigation led by Vivian Thom. I commit to providing you with an update as soon as possible.

Please don't hesitate to contact me should you require any further clarification.

Kind regards,

Professor Rebekah Brown FASSA

Interim Vice-Chancellor & President

The Australian National University

Chancery Building, 10 East Road Acton ACT 2601

E: provost@anu.edu.au

Executive Assistant

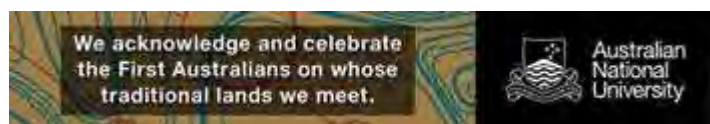
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E: ea.provost@anu.edu.au

The Australian National University, Canberra | CRICOS Provider: 00120C | ABN: [52 234 063 906](#)



From: Scott, Fiona (Sen D. Pocock) <Fiona.Scott@aph.gov.au>

Sent: Thursday, 9 October 2025 3:35 PM

To: Vice-Chancellor <vc@anu.edu.au>

Cc: ANU Government Relations <government@anu.edu.au>

Subject: Correspondence from Senator Pocock

You don't often get email from fiona.scott@aph.gov.au. [Learn why this is important](#)

Good afternoon,

Please find attached correspondence from Senator Pocock for the interim Vice-Chancellor.

Please also pass on his thanks for the news today of a halt to the restructures of CASS – we have already received an avalanche of positive feedback.

With many thanks,

Fiona

Fiona Scott | Chief of Staff

Office of Senator David Pocock

s.47F Personal E| Fiona.Scott@aph.gov.au

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Electorate Office | +61 2 6247 6444

[Shop 1, 25 Ernest Cavanagh St, Gungahlin, ACT 2912](#)

Senator.David.Pocock@aph.gov.au | www.davidpocock.com.au



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Correspondence from Senator Pocock

From **s.47F Personal privacy**
Date Thu 23/10/2025 12:01
To Vice-Chancellor <vc@anu.edu.au>
Cc Pocock, David (Senator Office) <Senator.David.Pocock@aph.gov.au>

 1 attachment (65 KB)
251021 Letter to R Brown re anti immigration sentiments.pdf;

You don't often get email from **s.47F Personal privacy** [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear Professor Brown,

Please see attached correspondence from Senator Pocock regarding anti-immigration sentiments on campus.

Kind Regards,

s.47F Personal privacy

Community and Volunteer Manager

Office of Senator David Pocock

s.47F Personal privacy

Parliament House | +61 2 6277 3117

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[Shop 1, 25 Ernest Cavanagh St, Gungahlin, ACT 2912](#)

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SENATOR DAVID POCOCK
Senator for the ACT

Professor Rebekah Brown
Interim Vice-Chancellor
The Australian National University
CANBERRA ACT 2601

By email

Rebekah,

Dear Professor Brown,

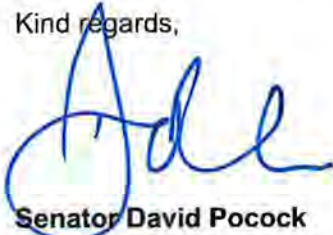
I am writing to you regarding concerns raised with me by ACT constituents about increased incidents of racism and discriminatory language directed at migrant people in our community. These concerns follow recent public commentary that has contributed to heightened ant-immigration sentiment, particularly toward Indian migrants.

Many of the young people whom these incidents are directed at were born here in Australia and are Australian and/or consider themselves to be Australian. For these young people, being singled out due to the colour of their skin can be particularly hurtful and isolating.

In light of these concerns and the long-term impacts these types of incidents can cause, I respectfully request that your office issue a memo to ANU faculty and students reinforcing the importance of vigilance, reporting, and proactive education on racism and respect for everyone in our community, no matter their cultural background. Such a message would reassure affected students and staff that their concerns are being taken seriously and reinforce to all members of the university community that our universities are safe, inclusive and respectful environments for everyone.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Kind regards,


Senator David Pocock

21 October 2025

Thank you for your email

From Pocock, David (Senator Office) <Senator.David.Pocock@aph.gov.au>

Date Wed 5/11/2025 14:47

To Vice-Chancellor <vc@anu.edu.au>

Thank you for taking the time to write to my office.

It's a huge honour to represent a community I love and hearing from the people who have elected me to represent them.

I receive hundreds of emails per week and – notwithstanding the importance and urgency of their content – we simply do not have the resources to respond to all of them in full. Due to this volume and my commitment to community-driven politics and being a strong voice for the people I've been elected to represent, I have asked my team to prioritise emails sent by constituents.

If you are a resident of the Australian Capital Territory, Jervis Bay or Norfolk Island, please ensure your full name and residential address were included in your email.

If you are not a constituent, please know that I appreciate your getting in touch with me. I have been energised by the level of engagement we are seeing from people across the country. While I wish we could respond to every email, I hope you will understand and respect my decision to focus our resources on staying accountable to my constituents. If you haven't done so already, I encourage you to contact your local Senator or Member of the House of Representatives for assistance or to share your views. You can find a list of contact details for Members [here](#) and for Senators [here](#). If you are unsure which electorate you live in, you can find that information on the Australian Electoral Commission's website [here](#).

If you are not a constituent and you would like to leave your comments or ideas about a particular policy issue, you can do so [here](#). I regularly check this feedback.

If you'd like to stay updated with news and events you can [subscribe to receive updates here](#) and connect with me on social media using the links below.

Thanks again for your email.

Senator David Pocock

Independent Senator for the ACT

Parliament House | +61 2 6277 3117

Electorate Office | +61 2 6247 6444

[Shop 1, 25 Ernest Cavanagh St, Gungahlin, ACT 2912](#)

Senator.David.Pocock@aph.gov.au | www.davidpocock.com.au



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USEFUL LINKS & PHONE NUMBERS

Health & Safety

Emergencies | Dial 000

[Walk-in-Centres](#)

[CALMS](#)

[ACT Emergency Department wait times](#)

[Access Mental Health Canberra](#) | 1800 629 354 or 02 6205 1065

[Lifeline](#) | 13 11 14 provides 24/7 crisis support

[Kids Helpline](#) | 1800 55 1800

[1800RESPECT](#) | 1800 737 732 provides 24/7 national domestic, family and sexual violence counselling, information and support service.

[Domestic Violence Crisis Service](#) | 02 6280 0900

[Legal Aid ACT](#) | 1300 654 314 or legalaid@legalaidact.org.au

City Services

[Access Canberra](#) | 13 22 81

[Fix My Street](#)

RE: Update regarding the Guardian article

From Scott, Fiona (Sen D. Pocock) <Fiona.Scott@aph.gov.au>

Date Wed 5/11/2025 15:26

To Vice-Chancellor <vc@anu.edu.au>; Pocock, David (Senator Office) <Senator.David.Pocock@aph.gov.au>

Cc s.47F Personal privacy; Senior Advisor - Provost <sa.provost@anu.edu.au>

Dear Vice-Chancellor,

Thank you very much for your email and for providing this update. It is comforting to hear of the steps you will be taking. Senator Pocock is currently in the Chamber, but I have given him a copy of the below and will revert if he asks for more detail.

With best wishes,

Fiona

Fiona Scott | Chief of Staff

Office of Senator David Pocock

s.47F Personal privacy | Fiona.Scott@aph.gov.au

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From: Vice-Chancellor <vc@anu.edu.au>

Sent: Wednesday, 5 November 2025 2:47 PM

To: Pocock, David (Senator Office) <Senator.David.Pocock@aph.gov.au>

Cc: Scott, Fiona (Sen D. Pocock) <Fiona.Scott@aph.gov.au>; s.47F Personal privacy; Senior Advisor - Provost <sa.provost@anu.edu.au>

Subject: Update regarding the Guardian article

Dear Senator Pocock,

I wanted to provide you with a brief update following the Guardian article regarding the University's investment holdings. I share the concerns raised by our community, and was alarmed to learn that the University had acquired shares in an Israeli defence manufacturer after having committed to avoid investments of this nature.

It is clear that the current position does not meet community expectations, and I am taking the following immediate steps:

1. This matter will be taken as a priority item at the Investment Committee meeting on Friday, 7 November, which I will attend
2. I will be directing a review of the University's Socially Responsible Investment (SRI) Policy and our independently defined investment screens, to ensure they are fully aligned with our values and commitments
3. I will also prepare a public statement acknowledging the concerns and outlining the actions we are taking to address this matter

My focus is on ensuring our investment practices reflect the values of our community and the responsibilities we hold as Australia's national university.

Please let me know if it would be helpful for me to provide further briefing or detail.

Kind Regards,
Rebekah

Professor Rebekah Brown FASSA
Interim Vice-Chancellor & President
Senior Vice-President & Provost

The Australian National University
Chancelry Building, 10 East Road Acton ACT 2601
E: vc@anu.edu.au

Executive Assistant

s.47F Personal

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Subject: Ring Pocock Office / s.47F Personal privacy
Location: Rebekah's Office

Start: Fri 7/11/2025 12:30 PM
End: Fri 7/11/2025 1:00 PM

Recurrence: (none)

Meeting Status: Meeting organizer

Organizer: Vice-Chancellor
Required Attendees: s.47F Personal privacy

RE: Request for Senator and IVC to connect

From Vice-Chancellor EA <ea.vc@anu.edu.au>

Date Wed 19/11/2025 08:30

To Pocock, David - Diary (Senator) <s.47E(d) Adverse effect on operations of agency>

Good morning s.47F Personal privacy

Thank you for your email.

Unfortunately, Rebekah is unable to meet on Thursday morning due to existing commitments.

If the Senator has availability later in the week or early next week, I would be very happy to look for an alternative time that works for both diaries.

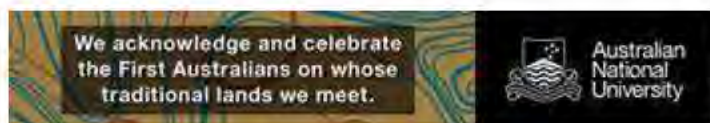
Warm regards,

s.47F Personal privacy

Executive Assistant, Interim Vice-Chancellor
Executive Assistant, Provost

The Australian National University
Chancery Building, 10 East Road Acton ACT 2601
T: 02 6125 8684
E: ea.vc@anu.edu.au

The Australian National University, Canberra | CRICOS Provider: 00120C | ABN: [52 234 063 906](#)



From: Pocock, David - Diary (Senator) <s.47E(d) Adverse effect on operations of agency>

Sent: Tuesday, 18 November 2025 5:37 PM

To: Vice-Chancellor EA <ea.vc@anu.edu.au>

Subject: RE: Request for Senator and IVC to connect

Importance: High

Hi s.47F
Persona

Thanks for taking my call earlier.

Would Professor Brown be available to meet on Thursday morning? The Senator is participating in a panel discussion at the Hyatt at 9:15am, and if convenient, could meet beforehand at 8:00am. Please let me know if this would be convenient.

Thanks so much.

Kind regards,

s.47F Personal privacy

Diary Manager

Office of Senator David Pocock

s.47F Personal privacy

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From: s.47F Personal privacy

Sent: Monday, 17 November 2025 6:04 PM

To: Pocock, David - Diary (Senator) <s.47E(d) Adverse effect on operations of agency>; Vice-Chancellor EA <ea.vc@anu.edu.au>

Cc: Scott, Fiona (Sen D. Pocock) <Fiona.Scott@aph.gov.au>

Subject: Request for Senator and IVC to connect

Hi

s.47F Personal privacy

Connecting you here with s.47F Personal privacy who manages the calendar for Interim Vice-Chancellor, Professor Rebekah Brown. I know these are two of the trickiest calendars in Canberra, but I'm hoping you can both weave your magic and find us an hour for the Senator and IVC to connect in the next week or so please?

With many thanks in advance.

s.47F Personal privacy

s.47F Personal privacy

Office of the Interim Vice-Chancellor

The Australian National University

s.47F Personal privacy

Chancery Building, 10 East Road Acton ACT 2601

Executive Assistant

ea.advancement@anu.edu.au



Outlook

Rebekah Brown | Davis Pocock - Meeting

From Vice-Chancellor <vc@anu.edu.au>

Date Wed 19/11/2025 14:42

To s.47F Personal privacy Senior Advisor - Provost <sa.provost@anu.edu.au>

Cc s.47F Personal privacy



Outlook

Canceled: Rebekah Brown | Davis Pocock - Meeting

From Vice-Chancellor <vc@anu.edu.au>

Date Thu 20/11/2025 20:42

To s.47F Personal privacy <s.47F Personal privacy@anu.edu.au>; Senior Advisor - Provost <sa.provost@anu.edu.au>

Cc s.47F Personal privacy <s.47F Personal privacy@anu.edu.au>

Subject: IVC | Senator David Pocock
Location: Parliment House, Senator's suite S1.49

Start: Thu 27/11/2025 12:00 PM
End: Thu 27/11/2025 12:30 PM

Recurrence: (none)

Meeting Status: Meeting organizer

Organizer: Vice-Chancellor
Required Attendees: s.47F Personal privacy

Season's Greetings

From Vice-Chancellor <vc@anu.edu.au>

Date Fri 19/12/2025 14:10

To Senator.David.Pocock@aph.gov.au <Senator.David.Pocock@aph.gov.au>



Australian
National
University

Office of
the Interim
Vice-Chancellor

2025

Season's Greetings

postimage
free image hosting

image not found
or was removed

Adorable residents of the ANU campus. Photo: Jamie Kidston/ANU

Dear Senator David Pocock,

As the year draws to a close, I would like to thank you for your engagement and support throughout 2025.

This year has required focus and resilience across many sectors. I appreciate the constructive relationship between Government and The Australian National University, and the opportunity to contribute evidence, expertise and insight to national priorities.

I wish you a safe and restful holiday period, and I look forward to continuing our engagement in the year ahead.

Kind Regards,

Professor Rebekah Brown

**Interim Vice-Chancellor and President
The Australian National University**

For further information

eo.vc@anu.edu.au

The Australian National University,
Canberra

TEQSA Provider ID: PRV12002
(Australian University)
CRICOS Provider: 00120C
ABN: 52 234 063 906



Thank you for your email

From Pocock, David (Senator Office) <Senator.David.Pocock@aph.gov.au>

Date Fri 19/12/2025 14:11

To Vice-Chancellor <vc@anu.edu.au>

Thank you for taking the time to write to my office.

My team and I are taking a small break over the holidays to recharge for 2026. **We will be operating a skeleton staff over the Christmas/New Year period and will be back to full electorate office services from Monday 12 January 2026.**

The holiday period can be a difficult time for many in our community. If you, or someone you care for is in need of assistance, there is a list of services at the bottom of this email that are available to provide support.

If you are a resident of the Australian Capital Territory, Jervis Bay or Norfolk Island, please ensure your full name and residential address were included in your email. If your name or address were missing from your original email, please resend it with that information included to assist my team in responding.

If you are not a constituent, please know that I appreciate you getting in touch with me. I have been energised by the level of engagement we are seeing from people across the country. While I wish we could respond to every email, I hope you will understand and respect my decision to focus our resources on staying accountable to my constituents. If you haven't done so already, I encourage you to contact your local Senator or Member of the House of Representatives for assistance or to share your views. You can find a list of contact details for Members and Senators [here](#). If you are unsure which electorate you live in, you can find that information on the Australian Electoral Commission's website [here](#).

If you are not a constituent and you would like to leave your comments or ideas about a particular policy issue, you can do so [here](#). I regularly check this feedback.

If you'd like to stay updated with news and events you can [subscribe to receive updates here](#) and connect with me on social media using the links below.

Thanks again for your email.

Kind regards,

Senator David Pocock

Independent Senator for the ACT

Parliament House | +61 2 6277 3117

Electorate Office | +61 2 6247 6444

[Shop 1, 25 Ernest Cavanagh St, Gungahlin, ACT 2912](#)

Senator.David.Pocock@aph.gov.au | www.davidpocock.com.au



Our offices reside on [Ngambri](#) and [Ngunnawal](#) Country. I acknowledge the traditional Custodians of Country here, and throughout Australia, and pay my respect to the elders, past and present of all Australia's Indigenous peoples.

-

USEFUL LINKS & PHONE NUMBERS

Health & Safety

Emergencies | Dial 000

[Walk-in-Centres](#)

[CALMS](#)

[ACT Emergency Department wait times](#)

[Access Mental Health Canberra](#) | 1800 629 354 or 02 6205 1065

[Lifeline](#) | 13 11 14 provides 24/7 crisis support

[Kids Helpline](#) | 1800 55 1800

[1800RESPECT](#) | 1800 737 732 provides 24/7 national domestic, family and sexual violence counselling, information and support service.

[Domestic Violence Crisis Service](#) | 02 6280 0900

[Legal Aid ACT](#) | 1300 654 314 or legallaid@legalaidact.org.au

City Services

[Access Canberra](#) | 13 22 81

[Fix My Street](#)

Thank you

From Vice-Chancellor <vc@anu.edu.au>

Date Wed 24/12/2025 16:38

To Sen. David Pocock <senator.david.pocock@aph.gov.au>

Cc David Pocock <s.47F Personal privacy [REDACTED]>; ANU Government Relations <government@anu.edu.au>; Fiona.Scott@aph.gov.au <Fiona.Scott@aph.gov.au>; VC Chief of Staff <cos.vc@anu.edu.au>

Dear Senator Pocock,

I want to begin by acknowledging the deeply distressing antisemitic terrorist attack at Bondi Beach on 14 December, and its impact on communities across Australia, including members of the ANU Jewish community. Acts of hatred and violence of this kind have no place in our society. ANU unequivocally condemns antisemitism and all forms of racism, and we stand with those who have been directly affected. The University is focused on supporting our Jewish students and staff, reinforcing community safety, and ensuring access to wellbeing and counselling services. We have increased security vigilance on campus, engaged directly with student leaders, and reaffirmed to our community that antisemitism is not tolerated at ANU. These actions sit alongside our broader, ongoing work to address racism, discrimination and harm wherever it occurs.

As the year draws to a close, I am pleased to share an update on the progress made across the Australian National University in recent months, and the collective steps the University community has taken to stabilise the institution, address immediate challenges, and set a clear direction forward.

I would like to thank you personally for your continued support for the ANU community and for your constructive engagement on matters affecting higher education more broadly. Your advocacy and willingness to engage thoughtfully with complex issues is genuinely valued.

Since September, ANU has focused on establishing a coordinated plan for recovery and reform. Central to this work has been the development of the ANU Roadmap, which sets out a practical sequence of actions from stabilisation through to longer-term rebuilding. The Roadmap has guided decision-making across the University, informed communications with staff and students, and supported engagement with government and external stakeholders.

This work has been underpinned by extensive consultation. Senior leaders have undertaken a broad listening program across Colleges, Schools and professional portfolios, engaging with staff, students and union representatives, and meeting with key government leaders and stakeholders. This has included four community meetings with Q&A, as well as a standalone Q&A session open to all, providing an additional opportunity for open dialogue. These interactions have directly informed the prioritisation and sequencing of reforms and the decisions taken since September.

Early actions were directed toward restoring stability and trust. To provide immediate certainty for staff and support genuine consultation and planning, the University removed involuntary redundancies from consideration across the five change proposals then underway. ANU has also cooperated fully with external investigations, engaging openly and transparently and providing all requested information.

To ensure decisions are evidence-based, the University commissioned a series of rapid stocktakes across finance, communications, culture and wellbeing, productivity and performance, and governance

and reputation. Each stocktake has a senior executive sponsor and clear accountability. Together, they provide a shared and realistic picture of ANU's current position and the actions required to move forward.

As part of the Roadmap, ANU has committed to regular staff surveys to track progress and identify areas requiring further attention. This work aligns with the University's Mental Health and Wellbeing Strategy, recognising the importance of staff and student wellbeing to institutional recovery. The University has also committed to establishing a dedicated Integrity Office, which will operate as a single, integrated front door for staff and students seeking advice or support on integrity-related matters. The Integrity Office will be fully operational by mid 2026.

During this period, ANU has continued to engage openly and constructively with parliamentary scrutiny, including through appearances at Senate Estimates.

The Nixon Review has provided a structured, community-led process for examining key issues facing the University. The Nixon Conference brought together seven specialist working groups, each with joint staff and student membership, and a Community Reference Panel, drawing on the expertise of the ANU community. The recommendations emerging from this process were developed internally and are grounded in the University's own academic and professional expertise. The senior leadership team is now considering the full set of recommendations through the Nixon Steering Committee, with a focus on practical implementation and long-term reform.

Several consistent priorities have emerged from this work, including the need for a clear articulation of the values and behaviours expected across the University, and a clear institutional approach to bias and discrimination, including how these matters are addressed when they arise.

Consultation also identified discipline-specific issues requiring early action. In the School of Music, ANU has committed to establishing a Performance+ Hub from 2026, providing audition-based, advanced one-to-one instrumental and vocal tuition for students with strong performance ambitions. The Hub will complement existing music programs, be underwritten by the University and will not involve additional tuition fees for students.

In 2025, ANU has strengthened its response to racism through expanded anti-racism messaging across campus, the introduction of a dedicated racism disclosure form, and the provision of trauma-informed support pathways for individuals reporting racism. Mandatory Rights, Relationships and Respect training for staff has been enhanced to include specific content on antisemitism and anti-racism. Additional training modules are currently in development for release in January 2026, including Bystander and Harmful Behaviours and Understanding and Responding to Racism. The University is also undertaking an ongoing review of its Student Discipline Framework, including how matters involving alleged racism and antisemitism are addressed.

Looking ahead, development of the next University Strategy formally commenced in November, with the first co-design workshop held with the University's 70-plus member leadership group. The University has committed to a genuinely co-designed Strategy and Academic Plan, which will succeed the current plan when it concludes at the end of this year. The process will actively involve staff, students, union officials, alumni, donors, partners, government and other key stakeholders. The new Strategy is scheduled to be launched in August 2026, coinciding with the University's 80th anniversary.

I look forward to continuing to work with you in support of Australia's national university, Senator and again thank you for your support.

Kind Regards,
Professor Rebekah Brown

Interim Vice-Chancellor
Australian National University



Outlook

Senator Pocock and ANU IVC meeting

From Vice-Chancellor <vc@anu.edu.au>

Date Tue 20/1/2026 15:08

To s.47F Personal privacy <s.47F Personal privacy@anu.edu.au>



Outlook

Senator Pocock and ANU IVC meeting

From Vice-Chancellor <vc@anu.edu.au>

Date Tue 27/1/2026 15:56

To s.47F: Personal privacy <s.47F: Personal privacy>@anu.edu.au>

 2 attachments (194 KB)

250128 IVC EXTERNAL Meeting brief Senator David Pocock.docx; Australian Parliament House - Map.pdf;



EXTERNAL IVC MEETING BRIEF

MEETING NAME	Meeting with Senator David Pocock
DATE	28 January 2026
TIME	13:00 - 13.30pm
VENUE	S1.49 Senator Pocock's office, Parliament House Parliamentary pass required, sign in s.47F Personal in Marble Foyer
FORMAT	In person meeting
ATTENDEES	• Senator David Pocock, Senator for the Australian Capital Territory. • Fiona Scott, Chief of Staff to Senator Pocock • Professor Rebekah Brown, Interim Vice Chancellor, ANU • s.47F Personal privacy
KEY CONTACTS	Senator Pocock's Office at Parliament House, 02 6277 3117 Chief of Staff, Fiona Scott, s.47F Personal privacy

KEY MESSAGES:

I wrote to you on Christmas eve on a number of topics including areas of progress over the months prior.

- As part of the Roadmap, ANU has committed to regular staff surveys to track progress and identify areas requiring further attention.
- The University has committed to establishing a dedicated Integrity Office, operational by mid-26.

Antisemitism

- ANU unequivocally condemns antisemitism and all forms of racism, and I mentioned in my correspondence to you the actions we have taken to strengthen our response to racism.

Senate Estimates

- As you know Senator, we were not called to appear at Senate Estimates in December.
- We are preparing on the assumption that we will be called to appear in February (likely Thurs 12 February) and expect to be advised by the secretariat in the week of 2 February.

University strategy co-design

- Extensive consultation with the ANU community for a launch in August 2026

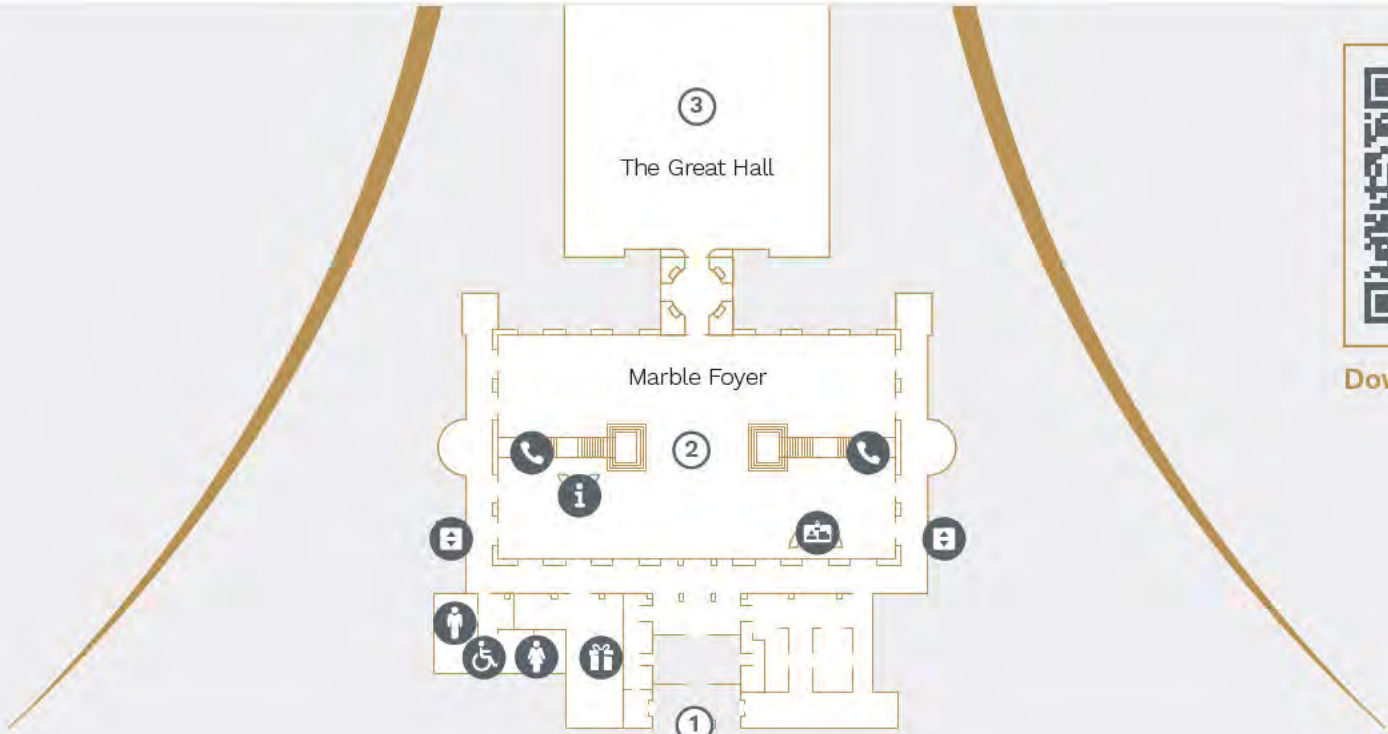
Outstanding QoNs

- We have two outstanding QoNs following our October Estimates hearing which relate to the School of Music (change proposal, and promotional materials).
- These have taken some time to gather historic and relevant material and ensure accuracy while decisions were being made.
- We anticipate being able to release these by the end of next week.

Recent Media - Non-disclosure agreements

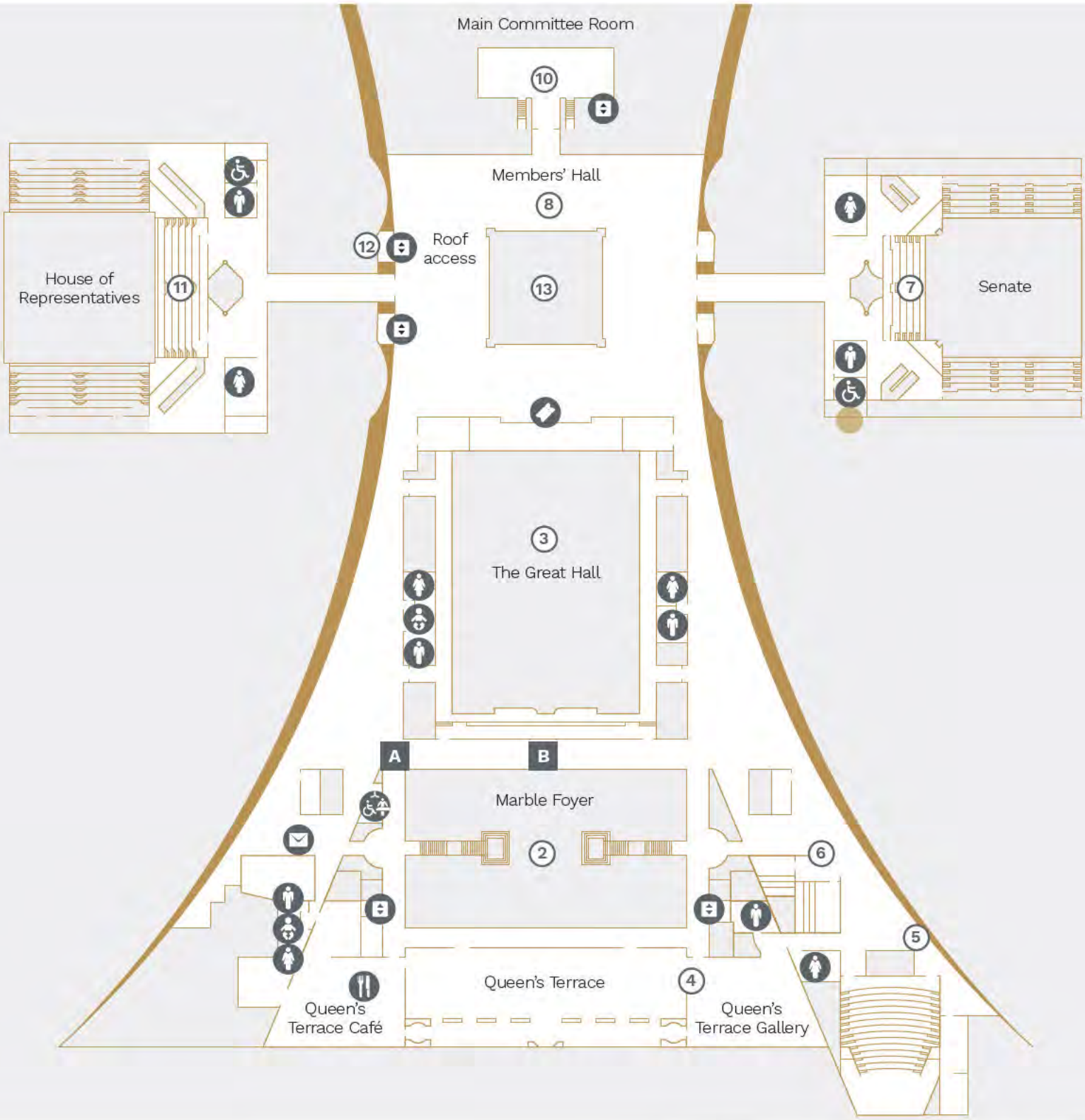
- Senator Pocock was quoted in the Times Higher Education last Thursday in an article about the proliferation of non-disclosure agreements in Universities and ANU specifically.

Ground Floor



Download this map

First Floor



Key Locations

- ① Forecourt and The Great Verandah

② The Marble Foyer

③ The Great Hall

④ Queen's Terrace Gallery and Terrace

⑤ Offical Gifts to Parliament

⑥ Open House Documentary

⑦ Senate

⑧ Members' Hall
- ⑩ Main Committee Room

⑪ House of Representatives

⑫ Roof

⑬ The Flag Mast

Amenities

- ♿ Adult change room

👶 Baby change room

🍴 Queen's Terrace Café

🎫 Ticket office (sitting times only)

🏠 Concierge desk

ℹ Information desk

🚪 Lift

✉ Post office

☎ Public phone

🛍 The Parliament Shop

🚻 Toilets

Tour Meeting Points

- A** Heart of the House

B Architecture of Parliament House
- Best of Parliament House

Yerabee Indigenous experiences of Parliament Hous

How Parliament Works

Art and Politics



Outlook

Canceled: Senator Pocock and ANU IVC meeting

From Vice-Chancellor <vc@anu.edu.au>

Date Wed 28/1/2026 08:57

To s.47F Personal privacy <s.47F Personal privacy@anu.edu.au>

 2 attachments (194 KB)

250128 IVC EXTERNAL Meeting brief Senator David Pocock.docx; Australian Parliament House - Map.pdf;

Re: Thank you

From Pocock, David (Private) <s.47F Personal privacy>

Date Wed 28/1/2026 14:48

To Vice-Chancellor <vc@anu.edu.au>

You don't often get email from s.47F Personal privacy [Learn why this is important](#)

Hi Rebekah,

I hope you managed to have a break with your family after a crazy 2025!
Thanks for the update. And thanks for all your work since taking over.

Look forward to catching up.

David

From: Vice-Chancellor <vc@anu.edu.au>

Sent: Wednesday, December 24, 2025 4:38:24 PM

To: Pocock, David (Senator Office) <Senator.David.Pocock@aph.gov.au>

Cc: Pocock, David (Private) <s.47F Personal privacy>; ANU Government Relations
<government@anu.edu.au>; Scott, Fiona (Sen D. Pocock) <Fiona.Scott@aph.gov.au>; VC Chief of Staff
<cos.vc@anu.edu.au>

Subject: Thank you

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I look forward to continuing to work with you in support of Australia's national university, Senator and again thank you for your support.

Kind Regards,
Professor Rebekah Brown

Interim Vice-Chancellor
Australian National University

Subject: Senator Pocock

Start: Mon 2/02/2026 5:30 PM
End: Mon 2/02/2026 6:00 PM

Recurrence: (none)

Organizer: Vice-Chancellor

Required Attendees: s.47F Personal privacy

Optional Attendees: ANU Government Relations



685

**David** ›iMessage
Encrypted

Fri, 12 Sep at 3:38 pm

Dear David. Rebekah Brown here (ANU) - just reaching out . Could I give you a call? Ps Andrew Leigh kindly gave me your number. Kind Regards RB

Hi Rebekah. Great to hear from you. I was actually going to try and get your number to get in touch and say congratulations and please reach out if there is anything I can help with. Can I give you a call a bit later this afternoon? If that doesn't work I'm happy to chat over the weekend.

Thanks David. Send me a text when you available -

and look forward to talking.
iMessage



Fri, 12 Sep at 4:55 pm

4:09



67



685

DP



Thanks David. Send me a text available - and look forward to talking.

Fri, 12 Sep at 4:55 pm



s.47F Personal privacy

s. 47E(d) Adverse effect on operations of agency

Wed, 17 Sep at 7:29 am

Hi David. Apologies I could not get back to you yesterday - day 4 on the job did not finish until the wee hrs.

I can give you a call late today, tomorrow after 5pm or I could meet face to face on Friday afternoon from 3.15pm onwards. Could any of these work?
Rebekah

Thu, 2 Oct at 1:34 pm

Hi David. Could I give you a quick call regarding your iMessage



s.47F Personal privacy

s.47F Personal privacy

Thanks

4:09



66



685

DP



s.47F Personal privacy

David

s. 47E(d) Adverse effect on operations of agency

Wed, 17 Sep at 7:29 am

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Rebekah

Thu, 2 Oct at 1:34 pm

Hi David. Could I give you a quick call regarding your QoN, s.47F Personal privacy
s.47F Personal privacy Thanks
Rebekah

Delivered



iMessage





David Pocock

Call History

Outgoing Call 8/5/2026 · 7:37 pm
5 minutes

Outgoing Call 7/5/2026 · 3:55 pm
3 seconds

Outgoing Call 6/5/2026 · 7:13 pm
3 seconds

Incoming Call 6/5/2026 · 3:46 pm
Missed

Incoming Call 6/5/2026 · 9:57 am
Missed

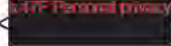
Outgoing Call 6/5/2026 · 8:26 am
4 seconds

Update regarding the Guardian article

From Vice Chancellor <vc@anu.edu.au>

Date Wed 5/11/2025 14:46

To Sen. David Pocock <senator.david.pocock@aph.gov.au>

Cc Fiona.Scott@aph.gov.au <Fiona.Scott@aph.gov.au>;  <@anu.edu.au>; Senior Advisor Provost <sa.provost@anu.edu.au>

Dear Senator Pocock,

I wanted to provide you with a brief update following the Guardian article regarding the University's investment holdings. I share the concerns raised by our community, and was alarmed to learn that the University had acquired shares in an Israeli defence manufacturer after having committed to avoid investments of this nature.

It is clear that the current position does not meet community expectations, and I am taking the following immediate steps:

1. This matter will be taken as a priority item at the Investment Committee meeting on Friday, 7 November, which I will attend
2. I will be directing a review of the University's Socially Responsible Investment (SRI) Policy and our independently defined investment screens, to ensure they are fully aligned with our values and commitments
3. I will also prepare a public statement acknowledging the concerns and outlining the actions we are taking to address this matter

My focus is on ensuring our investment practices reflect the values of our community and the responsibilities we hold as Australia's national university.

Please let me know if it would be helpful for me to provide further briefing or detail.

Kind Regards,
Rebekah

Professor Rebekah Brown FASSA

Interim Vice-Chancellor & President

Senior Vice-President & Provost

The Australian National University

Chancery Building, 10 East Road Acton ACT 2601

E: vc@anu.edu.au

Executive Assistant



T: [+61 2 6125 8684](tel:+61261258684)

Thank you for your email

From Pocock, David (Senator Office) <Senator.David.Pocock@aph.gov.au>

Date Wed 5/11/2025 14:47

To Vice Chancellor <vc@anu.edu.au>

Thank you for taking the time to write to my office.

It's a huge honour to represent a community I love and hearing from the people who have elected me to represent them.

I receive hundreds of emails per week and – notwithstanding the importance and urgency of their content – we simply do not have the resources to respond to all of them in full. Due to this volume and my commitment to community-driven politics and being a strong voice for the people I've been elected to represent, I have asked my team to prioritise emails sent by constituents.

If you are a resident of the Australian Capital Territory, Jervis Bay or Norfolk Island, please ensure your full name and residential address were included in your email.

If you are not a constituent, please know that I appreciate your getting in touch with me. I have been energised by the level of engagement we are seeing from people across the country. While I wish we could respond to every email, I hope you will understand and respect my decision to focus our resources on staying accountable to my constituents. If you haven't done so already, I encourage you to contact your local Senator or Member of the House of Representatives for assistance or to share your views. You can find a list of contact details for Members [here](#) and for Senators [here](#). If you are unsure which electorate you live in, you can find that information on the Australian Electoral Commission's website [here](#).

If you are not a constituent and you would like to leave your comments or ideas about a particular policy issue, you can do so [here](#). I regularly check this feedback.

If you'd like to stay updated with news and events you can [subscribe to receive updates here](#) and connect with me on social media using the links below.

Thanks again for your email.

Senator David Pocock

Independent Senator for the ACT

Parliament House | +61 2 6277 3117

Electorate Office | +61 2 6247 6444

[Shop 1, 25 Ernest Cavanagh St, Gungahlin, ACT 2912](#)

Senator.David.Pocock@aph.gov.au | www.davidpocock.com.au



Our offices reside on [Ngambri](#) and [Ngunnawal](#) Country. I acknowledge the traditional Custodians of Country here, and throughout Australia, and pay my respect to the elders, past and present of all Australia's Indigenous peoples.

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USEFUL LINKS & PHONE NUMBERS

Health & Safety

Emergencies | Dial 000

[Walk-in-Centres](#)

[CALMS](#)

[ACT Emergency Department wait times](#)

[Access Mental Health Canberra](#) | 1800 629 354 or 02 6205 1065

[Lifeline](#) | 13 11 14 provides 24/7 crisis support

[Kids Helpline](#) | 1800 55 1800

[1800RESPECT](#) | 1800 737 732 provides 24/7 national domestic, family and sexual violence counselling, information and support service.

[Domestic Violence Crisis Service](#) | 02 6280 0900

[Legal Aid ACT](#) | 1300 654 314 or legalaid@legalaidact.org.au

City Services

[Access Canberra](#) | 13 22 81

[Fix My Street](#)

RE: Update regarding the Guardian article

From Scott, Fiona (Sen D. Pocock) <Fiona.Scott@aph.gov.au>

Date Wed 5/11/2025 15:26

To Vice Chancellor <vc@anu.edu.au>; Pocock, David (Senator Office) <Senator.David.Pocock@aph.gov.au>

Cc [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@anu.edu.au>; Senior Advisor - Provost <sa.provost@anu.edu.au>

Dear Vice-Chancellor,

Thank you very much for your email and for providing this update. It is comforting to hear of the steps you will be taking. Senator Pocock is currently in the Chamber, but I have given him a copy of the below and will revert if he asks for more detail.

With best wishes,

Fiona

Fiona Scott | Chief of Staff

Office of Senator David Pocock

M | [REDACTED] **E** | Fiona.Scott@aph.gov.au

Parliament House | +61 2 6277 3117

Electorate Office | +61 2 6247 6444

[Shop 1, 25 Ernest Cavanagh St, Gungahlin, ACT 2912](#)

Senator.David.Pocock@aph.gov.au | www.davidpocock.com.au



Our offices reside on [Ngunnawal](#) Country. I acknowledge the traditional Custodians of Country here, and throughout Australia, and pay my respect to the elders, past and present of all Australia's Indigenous peoples.

From: Vice-Chancellor <vc@anu.edu.au>

Sent: Wednesday, 5 November 2025 2:47 PM

To: Pocock, David (Senator Office) <Senator.David.Pocock@aph.gov.au>

Cc: Scott, Fiona (Sen D. Pocock) <Fiona.Scott@aph.gov.au>; [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@anu.edu.au>; Senior Advisor - Provost <sa.provost@anu.edu.au>

Subject: Update regarding the Guardian article

Dear Senator Pocock,

I wanted to provide you with a brief update following the Guardian article regarding the University's investment holdings. I share the concerns raised by our community, and was alarmed to learn that the University had acquired shares in an Israeli defence manufacturer after having committed to avoid investments of this nature.

It is clear that the current position does not meet community expectations, and I am taking the following immediate steps:

1. This matter will be taken as a priority item at the Investment Committee meeting on Friday, 7 November, which I will attend
2. I will be directing a review of the University's Socially Responsible Investment (SRI) Policy and our independently defined investment screens, to ensure they are fully aligned with our values and commitments
3. I will also prepare a public statement acknowledging the concerns and outlining the actions we are taking to address this matter

My focus is on ensuring our investment practices reflect the values of our community and the responsibilities we hold as Australia's national university.

Please let me know if it would be helpful for me to provide further briefing or detail.

Kind Regards,
Rebekah

Professor Rebekah Brown FASSA

Interim Vice Chancellor & President

Senior Vice President & Provost

The Australian National University

Chancelry Building, 10 East Road Acton ACT 2601

E: vc@anu.edu.au

Executive Assistant

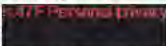
s.47F Personal privacy

T: +61 2 6125 8684



Outlook

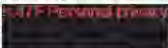
Ring Pocock Office / 

Organizer	Vice Chancellor <vc@anu.edu.au>
Meeting time	This event occurred 7 months ago (Fri 7/11/2025 12:30 - 13:00)
Location	Rebekah's Office
My response	Accepted
Required attendees	
Message sent	Fri 7/11/2025 08:51



Outlook

IVC | Senator David Pocock

Organizer	Vice Chancellor <vc@anu.edu.au>
Meeting time	This event occurred 6 months ago (Thu 27/11/2025 12:00 - 12:30)
Location	Parliament House, Senator's suite S1.49
My response	Accepted
Required attendees	
Message sent	Fri 21/11/2025 09:19

Season's Greetings

From Vice Chancellor <vc@anu.edu.au>

Date Fri 19/12/2025 14:10

To Senator.David.Pocock@aph.gov.au <Senator.David.Pocock@aph.gov.au>



Australian
National
University

Office of
the Interim
Vice-Chancellor

2025

Season's Greetings

postimage
free image hosting

image not found
or was removed

Adorable residents of the ANU campus. Photo: Jamie Kidston/ANU

Dear Senator David Pocock,

As the year draws to a close, I would like to thank you for your engagement and support throughout 2025.

This year has required focus and resilience across many sectors. I appreciate the constructive relationship between Government and The Australian National University, and the opportunity to contribute evidence, expertise and insight to national priorities.

I wish you a safe and restful holiday period, and I look forward to continuing our engagement in the year ahead.

Kind Regards,

Professor Rebekah Brown

**Interim Vice-Chancellor and President
The Australian National University**

For further information

eo.vc@anu.edu.au

The Australian National University,
Canberra

TEQSA Provider ID: PRV12002
(Australian University)
CRICOS Provider: 00120C
ABN: 52 234 063 906



Thank you for your email

From Pocock, David (Senator Office) <Senator.David.Pocock@aph.gov.au>

Date Fri 19/12/2025 14:11

To Vice Chancellor <vc@anu.edu.au>

Thank you for taking the time to write to my office.

My team and I are taking a small break over the holidays to recharge for 2026. **We will be operating a skeleton staff over the Christmas/New Year period and will be back to full electorate office services from Monday 12 January 2026.**

The holiday period can be a difficult time for many in our community. If you, or someone you care for is in need of assistance, there is a list of services at the bottom of this email that are available to provide support.

If you are a resident of the Australian Capital Territory, Jervis Bay or Norfolk Island, please ensure your full name and residential address were included in your email. If your name or address were missing from your original email, please resend it with that information included to assist my team in responding.

If you are not a constituent, please know that I appreciate you getting in touch with me. I have been energised by the level of engagement we are seeing from people across the country. While I wish we could respond to every email, I hope you will understand and respect my decision to focus our resources on staying accountable to my constituents. If you haven't done so already, I encourage you to contact your local Senator or Member of the House of Representatives for assistance or to share your views. You can find a list of contact details for Members and Senators [here](#). If you are unsure which electorate you live in, you can find that information on the Australian Electoral Commission's website [here](#).

If you are not a constituent and you would like to leave your comments or ideas about a particular policy issue, you can do so [here](#). I regularly check this feedback.

If you'd like to stay updated with news and events you can [subscribe to receive updates here](#) and connect with me on social media using the links below.

Thanks again for your email.

Kind regards,

Senator David Pocock

Independent Senator for the ACT

Parliament House | +61 2 6277 3117

Electorate Office | +61 2 6247 6444

[Shop 1, 25 Ernest Cavanagh St, Gungahlin, ACT 2912](#)

Senator.David.Pocock@aph.gov.au | www.davidpocock.com.au



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-

USEFUL LINKS & PHONE NUMBERS

Health & Safety

Emergencies | Dial 000

[Walk-in-Centres](#)

[CALMS](#)

[ACT Emergency Department wait times](#)

[Access Mental Health Canberra](#) | 1800 629 354 or 02 6205 1065

[Lifeline](#) | 13 11 14 provides 24/7 crisis support

[Kids Helpline](#) | 1800 55 1800

[1800RESPECT](#) | 1800 737 732 provides 24/7 national domestic, family and sexual violence counselling, information and support service.

[Domestic Violence Crisis Service](#) | 02 6280 0900

[Legal Aid ACT](#) | 1300 654 314 or legalaid@legalaidact.org.au

City Services

[Access Canberra](#) | 13 22 81

[Fix My Street](#)

Thank you

From Vice Chancellor <vc@anu.edu.au>

Date Wed 24/12/2025 16:38

To Sen. David Pocock <senator.david.pocock@aph.gov.au>

Cc David Pocock **s 47F Personal privacy**; ANU Government Relations <government@anu.edu.au>; Fiona.Scott@aph.gov.au <Fiona.Scott@aph.gov.au>; VC Chief of Staff <cos.vc@anu.edu.au>

Dear Senator Pocock,

I want to begin by acknowledging the deeply distressing antisemitic terrorist attack at Bondi Beach on 14 December, and its impact on communities across Australia, including members of the ANU Jewish community. Acts of hatred and violence of this kind have no place in our society. ANU unequivocally condemns antisemitism and all forms of racism, and we stand with those who have been directly affected. The University is focused on supporting our Jewish students and staff, reinforcing community safety, and ensuring access to wellbeing and counselling services. We have increased security vigilance on campus, engaged directly with student leaders, and reaffirmed to our community that antisemitism is not tolerated at ANU. These actions sit alongside our broader, ongoing work to address racism, discrimination and harm wherever it occurs.

As the year draws to a close, I am pleased to share an update on the progress made across the Australian National University in recent months, and the collective steps the University community has taken to stabilise the institution, address immediate challenges, and set a clear direction forward.

I would like to thank you personally for your continued support for the ANU community and for your constructive engagement on matters affecting higher education more broadly. Your advocacy and willingness to engage thoughtfully with complex issues is genuinely valued.

Since September, ANU has focused on establishing a coordinated plan for recovery and reform. Central to this work has been the development of the ANU Roadmap, which sets out a practical sequence of actions from stabilisation through to longer-term rebuilding. The Roadmap has guided decision-making across the University, informed communications with staff and students, and supported engagement with government and external stakeholders.

This work has been underpinned by extensive consultation. Senior leaders have undertaken a broad listening program across Colleges, Schools and professional portfolios, engaging with staff, students and union representatives, and meeting with key government leaders and stakeholders. This has included four community meetings with Q&A, as well as a standalone Q&A session open to all, providing an additional opportunity for open dialogue. These interactions have directly informed the prioritisation and sequencing of reforms and the decisions taken since September.

Early actions were directed toward restoring stability and trust. To provide immediate certainty for staff and support genuine consultation and planning, the University removed involuntary redundancies from consideration across the five change proposals then underway. ANU has also cooperated fully with external investigations, engaging openly and transparently and providing all requested information.

To ensure decisions are evidence-based, the University commissioned a series of rapid stocktakes across finance, communications, culture and wellbeing, productivity and performance, and governance and reputation. Each stocktake has a senior executive sponsor and clear accountability. Together, they provide a shared and realistic picture of ANU's current position and the actions required to move forward.

As part of the Roadmap, ANU has committed to regular staff surveys to track progress and identify areas requiring further attention. This work aligns with the University's Mental Health and Wellbeing Strategy, recognising the importance of staff and student wellbeing to institutional recovery. The University has also committed to establishing a dedicated Integrity Office, which will operate as a single, integrated front door for staff and students seeking advice or support on integrity-related matters. The Integrity Office will be fully operational by mid 2026.

During this period, ANU has continued to engage openly and constructively with parliamentary scrutiny, including through appearances at Senate Estimates.

The Nixon Review has provided a structured, community-led process for examining key issues facing the University. The Nixon Conference brought together seven specialist working groups, each with joint staff and student membership, and a Community Reference Panel, drawing on the expertise of the ANU community. The recommendations emerging from this process were developed internally and are grounded in the University's own academic and professional expertise. The senior leadership team is now considering the full set of recommendations through the Nixon Steering Committee, with a focus on practical implementation and long-term reform.

Several consistent priorities have emerged from this work, including the need for a clear articulation of the values and behaviours expected across the University, and a clear institutional approach to bias and discrimination, including how these matters are addressed when they arise.

Consultation also identified discipline-specific issues requiring early action. In the School of Music, ANU has committed to establishing a Performance+ Hub from 2026, providing audition-based, advanced one-to-one instrumental and vocal tuition for students with strong performance ambitions. The Hub will complement existing music programs, be underwritten by the University and will not involve additional tuition fees for students.

In 2025, ANU has strengthened its response to racism through expanded anti-racism messaging across campus, the introduction of a dedicated racism disclosure form, and the provision of trauma-informed support pathways for individuals reporting racism. Mandatory Rights, Relationships and Respect training for staff has been enhanced to include specific content on antisemitism and anti-racism. Additional training modules are currently in development for release in January 2026, including Bystander and Harmful Behaviours and Understanding and Responding to Racism. The University is also undertaking an ongoing review of its Student Discipline Framework, including how matters involving alleged racism and antisemitism are addressed.

Looking ahead, development of the next University Strategy formally commenced in November, with the first co-design workshop held with the University's 70-plus member leadership group. The University has committed to a genuinely co-designed Strategy and Academic Plan, which will succeed the current plan when it concludes at the end of this year. The process will actively involve staff, students, union officials, alumni, donors, partners, government and other key stakeholders. The new Strategy is scheduled to be launched in August 2026, coinciding with the University's 80th anniversary.

I look forward to continuing to work with you in support of Australia's national university, Senator and again thank you for your support.

Kind Regards,
Professor Rebekah Brown

Interim Vice-Chancellor
Australian National University

Re: Thank you

From Pocock, David (Private) <s.47F Personal privacy>
Date Wed 28/1/2026 14:48
To Vice Chancellor <vc@anu.edu.au>

You don't often get email from s.47F Personal privacy [Learn why this is important](#)

Hi Rebekah,

I hope you managed to have a break with your family after a crazy 2025!
Thanks for the update. And thanks for all your work since taking over.

Look forward to catching up.

David

From: Vice-Chancellor <vc@anu.edu.au>
Sent: Wednesday, December 24, 2025 4:38:24 PM
To: Pocock, David (Senator Office) <Senator.David.Pocock@aph.gov.au>
Cc: Pocock, David (Private) <s.47F Personal privacy>; ANU Government Relations <government@anu.edu.au>; Scott, Fiona (Sen D. Pocock) <Fiona.Scott@aph.gov.au>; VC Chief of Staff <cos.vc@anu.edu.au>
Subject: Thank you

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I look forward to continuing to work with you in support of Australia's national university, Senator and again thank you for your support.

Kind Regards,
Professor Rebekah Brown

Interim Vice-Chancellor
Australian National University



Outlook

Senator Pocock

Organizer Vice Chancellor <vc@anu.edu.au>
Meeting time This event occurred 4 months ago (Mon 2/2/2026 17:30 - 18:00)
My response Accepted
Required attendees s.47F Personal privacy
Optional attendees ANU Government Relations
Message sent Sun 1/2/2026 09:33

RE: ANU IVC - Senator Pocock meeting request

From: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@anu.edu.au>
Date: Fri 24/4/2026 14:33
To: Pocock, David - Diary (Senator) [REDACTED]
Cc: Vice-Chancellor <vc@anu.edu.au>

Hi [REDACTED]
Thank you for your time on the phone just now.
We can confirm 12:30-1pm on Friday 22 May works for Professor Brown for a Teams call.

If you could send through a calendar invite to me and the VC email address (CC'd) that would be great!

Thanks,
[REDACTED]

From: Pocock, David - Diary (Senator) [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 24 April 2026 1:40 PM
To: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@anu.edu.au>
Subject: RE: ANU IVC - Senator Pocock meeting request

Yes sure! I'm free anytime!

[REDACTED] | Diary and Engagements Manager
Office of Senator David Pocock
E | [REDACTED]
Parliament House | +61 2 6277 3117
Electorate Office | +61 2 6247 6444
[Shop 1, 25 Ernest Cavanagh St, Gungahlin, ACT 2912](#)
Senator.David.Pocock@aph.gov.au | www.davidpocock.com.au



Our offices reside on [Ngunnawa](#) Country. I acknowledge the traditional Custodians of Country here, and throughout Australia, and pay my respect to the elders, past and present of all Australia's Indigenous peoples.

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 24 April 2026 12:25 PM
To: Pocock, David - Diary (Senator) [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: ANU IVC - Senator Pocock meeting request

Hi [REDACTED] I'll give you a ring at 1:30 to try and find a time, if that suits you?
[REDACTED]

From: Pocock, David - Diary (Senator) <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, 24 April 2026 10:35 AM
To: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]> @anu.edu.au>; Pocock, David - Diary (Senator) <[REDACTED]>
Subject: RE: ANU IVC - Senator Pocock meeting request

Hi [REDACTED]

I'm so sorry 3:30pm doesn't work. Would 2pm suit?

Sorry for the back and forth.

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] | Diary and Engagements Manager

Office of Senator David Pocock

E | [REDACTED]

Parliament House | +61 2 6277 3117

Electorate Office | +61 2 6247 6444

[Shop 1, 25 Ernest Cavanagh St, Gungahlin, ACT 2912](#)

Senator.David.Pocock@aph.gov.au | www.davidpocock.com.au



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From: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]> @anu.edu.au>
Sent: Thursday, 23 April 2026 4:22 PM
To: Pocock, David - Diary (Senator) <[REDACTED]>
Subject: RE: ANU IVC - Senator Pocock meeting request

Hi [REDACTED]

Great to meet you too, I look forward to meeting you in person at some point.
Could we book a meeting in for 3:30pm on 22 May at the Senator's APH office?

Thanks,

[REDACTED]

From: Pocock, David - Diary (Senator) <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Wednesday, 22 April 2026 10:02 PM
To: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]> @anu.edu.au>
Cc: Pocock, David - Diary (Senator) <[REDACTED]>
Subject: RE: ANU IVC - Senator Pocock meeting request

Hi [REDACTED]

Lovely to e-meet you. Senator Pocock would be happy to meet with Professor Brown but both those timings are tricky for him. Would 22 May at 2:30pm or after be suitable at all?

If not possible, feel free to call me and we can try work out a mutually suitable time.

Kind regards,

s.47F Personal privacy

s.47F Personal privacy | Diary and Engagements Manager

Office of Senator David Pocock

E | s.47F Personal privacy

Parliament House | +61 2 6277 3117

Electorate Office | +61 2 6247 6444

[Shop 1, 25 Ernest Cavanagh St, Gungahlin, ACT 2912](#)

Senator.David.Pocock@aph.gov.au | www.davidpocock.com.au



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From: s.47F Personal privacy <s.47F Personal privacy@anu.edu.au>

Sent: Monday, 20 April 2026 2:03 PM

To: Pocock, David - Diary (Senator) <s.47E(d) Adverse effect on operations of agency>

Subject: FW: ANU IVC - Senator Pocock meeting request

Hi team,

Forwarding my email in s.47F Personal privacy absence.

s.47F Personal privacy

From: s.47F Personal privacy

Sent: Monday, 20 April 2026 2:02 PM

To: s.47F Personal privacy

Subject: ANU IVC - Senator Pocock meeting request

Hi s.47F Personal privacy

Professor Brown is very keen to meet Senator Pocock prior to Budget Estimates. I can offer the following times:

21 May – 12:30-2pm

22 May – 10-12

Thanks,

s.47F Personal privacy

s.47F Personal privacy

Government Relations

The Australian National University

ACT 2600 Australia

E: s.47F Personal privacy@anu.edu.au

TEQSA Provider ID: PRV12002 (Australian University) | CRICOS Provider Code: 00120C
The Australian National University, Canberra | ABN: 52 234 063 906

RE: ANU IVC - Senator Pocock meeting request

From Pocock, David Diary (Senator) s. 47E(d) Adverse effect on operations of agency

Date Fri 24/4/2026 14:44

To s. 47F Personal privacy s. 47F Personal privacy @anu.edu.au>; Pocock, David Diary (Senator) s. 47E(d) Adverse effect on operations of agency

Cc Vice-Chancellor <vc@anu.edu.au>

You don't often get email from s. 47E(d) Adverse effect on operations of agency [Learn why this is important](#)

Thank you for confirming s. 47F Personal privacy

Link below:

Microsoft Teams meeting

Join: [s. 47E\(d\) Adverse effect on operations of agency](https://teams.microsoft.com/meet/)

Meeting ID: s. 47E(d) Adverse effect on operations of agency

Passcode: s. 47E(d) Adverse effect on operations of agency

Kind regards,

s. 47F Personal privacy | Diary and Engagements Manager

Office of Senator David Pocock

E | s. 47F Personal privacy

Parliament House | +61 2 6277 3117

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[Shop 1, 25 Ernest Cavanagh St, Gungahlin, ACT 2912](#)

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From: s. 47F Personal privacy s. 47F Personal privacy @anu.edu.au>

Sent: Friday, 24 April 2026 2:34 PM

To: Pocock, David - Diary (Senator) s. 47E(d) Adverse effect on operations of agency

Cc: Vice-Chancellor <vc@anu.edu.au>

Subject: RE: ANU IVC - Senator Pocock meeting request

Hi s. 47F Personal privacy

Thank you for your time on the phone just now.

We can confirm 12:30-1pm on Friday 22 May works for Professor Brown for a Teams call.

If you could send through a calendar invite to me and the VC email address (CC'd) that would be great!

Thanks,

From: Pocock, David - Diary (Senator) <s.47E(d) Adverse effect on operations of agency>
Sent: Friday, 24 April 2026 1:40 PM
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Subject: RE: ANU IVC - Senator Pocock meeting request

Yes sure! I'm free anytime!

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From: <s.47F Personal privacy> <s.47F Personal privacy>@anu.edu.au>
Sent: Friday, 24 April 2026 12:25 PM
To: Pocock, David - Diary (Senator) <s.47E(d) Adverse effect on operations of agency>
Subject: RE: ANU IVC - Senator Pocock meeting request

Hi <s.47F Personal privacy> I'll give you a ring at 1:30 to try and find a time, if that suits you?

From: Pocock, David - Diary (Senator) <s.47E(d) Adverse effect on operations of agency>
Sent: Friday, 24 April 2026 10:35 AM
To: <s.47F Personal privacy> <s.47F Personal privacy>@anu.edu.au>; Pocock, David - Diary (Senator) <s.47E(d) Adverse effect on operations of agency>
Subject: RE: ANU IVC - Senator Pocock meeting request

Hi <s.47F Personal privacy>

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Sorry for the back and forth.

Kind regards,

s.47F Personal privacy | Diary and Engagements Manager
Office of Senator David Pocock

E | **s.47F Personal privacy**

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From: **s.47F Personal privacy** <**s.47F Personal privacy**@anu.edu.au>

Sent: Thursday, 23 April 2026 4:22 PM

To: Pocock, David - Diary (Senator) <**s.47E(d) Adverse effect on operations of agency**>

Subject: RE: ANU IVC - Senator Pocock meeting request

Hi **s.47F Personal privacy**

Great to meet you too, I look forward to meeting you in person at some point.

Could we book a meeting in for 3:30pm on 22 May at the Senator's APH office?

Thanks,

s.47F Personal privacy

From: Pocock, David - Diary (Senator) <**s.47E(d) Adverse effect on operations of agency**>

Sent: Wednesday, 22 April 2026 10:02 PM

To: **s.47F Personal privacy** <**s.47F Personal privacy**@anu.edu.au>

Cc: Pocock, David - Diary (Senator) <**s.47E(d) Adverse effect on operations of agency**>

Subject: RE: ANU IVC - Senator Pocock meeting request

Hi **s.47F Personal privacy**

Lovely to e-meet you. Senator Pocock would be happy to meet with Professor Brown but both those timings are tricky for him. Would 22 May at 2:30pm or after be suitable at all?

If not possible, feel free to call me and we can try work out a mutually suitable time.

Kind regards,

s.47F Personal privacy

s.47F Personal privacy | Diary and Engagements Manager

Office of Senator David Pocock

E | **s.47F Personal privacy**

Parliament House | +61 2 6277 3117

Electorate Office | +61 2 6247 6444

[Shop 1, 25 Ernest Cavanagh St, Gungahlin, ACT 2912](#)

Senator.David.Pocock@aph.gov.au | www.davidpocock.com.au



Our offices reside on [Ngunnawal](#) Country. I acknowledge the traditional Custodians of Country here, and throughout Australia, and pay my respect to the elders, past and present of all Australia's Indigenous peoples.

From: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@anu.edu.au>
Sent: Monday, 20 April 2026 2:03 PM
To: Pocock, David - Diary (Senator) <[REDACTED]>
Subject: FW: ANU IVC - Senator Pocock meeting request

Hi team,
Forwarding my email in [REDACTED] absence.

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 20 April 2026 2:02 PM
To: [REDACTED] (Sen D. Pocock) <[REDACTED]>
Subject: ANU IVC - Senator Pocock meeting request

Hi [REDACTED]
Professor Brown is very keen to meet Senator Pocock prior to Budget Estimates.
I can offer the following times:

21 May – 12:30-2pm
22 May – 10-12

Thanks,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Government Relations
The Australian National University
ACT 2600 Australia
E: [REDACTED]@anu.edu.au

TEQSA Provider ID: PRV12002 (Australian University) | CRICOS Provider Code: 00120C
The Australian National University, Canberra | ABN: 52 234 063 906

FW: Urgent Correspondence from Senator Pocock regarding ANU

From Scott, Fiona (Sen D. Pocock) <Fiona.Scott@aph.gov.au>

Date Thu 7/5/2026 18:09

To Rebekah Brown <Rebekah.Brown@anu.edu.au>

 2 attachments (882 KB)

260507 Letter to Minister Clare, ANU [CONFIDENTIAL].pdf; Letter to ANU Council Members.pdf;

You don't often get email from fiona.scott@aph.gov.au. [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear Interim Vice Chancellor,

As a courtesy, please find attached for your awareness a copy of correspondence Senator Pocock sent to the federal education Minister this evening. You are welcome to share this with others as you deem necessary or appropriate.

Kind regards,

Fiona

Fiona Scott | Chief of Staff

Office of Senator David Pocock

M|  E| Fiona.Scott@aph.gov.au

Parliament House | +61 2 6277 3117

Electorate Office | +61 2 6247 6444

[Shop 1, 25 Ernest Cavanagh St, Gungahlin, ACT 2912](#)

Senator.David.Pocock@aph.gov.au | www.davidpocock.com.au



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From: Scott, Fiona (Sen D. Pocock)

Sent: Thursday, 7 May 2026 6:02 PM

To: EDUC - Minister.Clare <minister.clare@education.gov.au>; Gallagher, Katy (Senator) <Senator.Katy.Gallagher@aph.gov.au>

Cc: QUADRIO,Timothy <timothy.quadrio@education.gov.au>; 



Subject: Urgent Correspondence from Senator Pocock regarding ANU

Good evening,

Please find attached urgent correspondence for the Minister from Senator Pocock relating to the ANU.

With many thanks,

Fiona

Fiona Scott | Chief of Staff
Office of Senator David Pocock

M|  E| Fiona.Scott@aph.gov.au

Parliament House | +61 2 6277 3117

Electorate Office | +61 2 6247 6444

[Shop 1, 25 Ernest Cavanagh St, Gungahlin, ACT 2912](#)

Senator.David.Pocock@aph.gov.au | www.davidpocock.com.au



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SENATOR DAVID POCOCK
Senator for the ACT

The Honourable Jason Clare MP
Minister for Education
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Via email

Dear Minister,

It has now been almost 12 months since I first wrote to you regarding the serious concerns being raised with me by constituents about governance and leadership at the Australian National University (ANU).

As you would be aware, since that time we have seen:

- serious allegations of bullying made against the Chancellor by Dr Liz Allen, which I advised you of in my letter of June last year and which were subsequently raised in the course of a Senate hearing into University Governance in August 2025;
- the commencement of a review by the higher education regulator TEQSA into governance at the ANU at your request;
- the establishment of a Special Governance Committee at ANU and appointment of Dr Vivienne Thom AM to inquire into the matters raised at the Senate hearing;
- a Comcare investigation and assistance with a cease work order issued for the College of Arts and Social Sciences
- a staff-led ANU Governance Project survey responded to by more than 590 staff, students, alumni and stakeholders, with over 96 per cent saying current governance was not fit for purpose, over 92 per cent dissatisfied with governance, and over 93 per cent dissatisfied with transparency and accountability;
- the resignation of Vice-Chancellor Bell and her subsequent suspension and investigation by Jane Den Hollander AO following concerns around the **s.47F Personal privacy** and the

reported reinstatement of Professor Bell (noting Ms Den Hollander's report has not been made public);

- [reports](#) of yelling during council meetings at the Interim Vice Chancellor by other members of ANU Council and a direction for her to leave a meeting of council in February this year with a subsequent complaint by two members of council to the Chancellor over the conduct towards the Interim Vice Chancellor that went unresponded to;
- the resignation of multiple Council members including former Pro-Chancellor Alison Kitchen AM, Dr Liz Allen and Dr Francis Markham, the latter two because they had lost confidence in the operation of Council;
- ANU entering into a voluntary undertaking with TEQSA about the process to appoint the next Chancellor;
- ongoing serious leaks of sensitive information including but not limited to extracts of the as yet untabled ANAO report, private signal messages between the deans and the Interim Vice Chancellor which include deeply personal information disclosed in-confidence; and
- a concerning number of anonymous Freedom of Information requests that come from person/s with access to privileged information.

I have also been advised that it appears at least one journalist has been briefed on the contents of the Thom Review prior to it being considered by Council or by Dr Allen as the primary complainant. If true, this would constitute a gross breach of procedural fairness and may also be in breach of the Public Interest Disclosure (PID) Act. I have been sent a copy of correspondence from Dr Allen's legal representatives to the university's legal representatives today outlining these concerns in detail and potential liability arising from them.

I am sure you would agree that this is deeply concerning and comes amid an escalating pattern of what appears to now be a blatant, public attempt by the Chancellor to remove the Interim Vice Chancellor and discredit her in the media. This media campaign is inflicting further damage to a beloved national institution that has already experienced significant harm over the past few years and has sparked an outpouring of concern from staff, students and members of the broader community to my office.

I am advised that the Chancellor is seeking to suspend the Interim Vice Chancellor as early as today despite, as I understand it, TEQSA having provided advice in writing cautioning that any changes to senior personnel while their investigation into the ANU is ongoing would be inadvisable.

The feedback I have received about the performance of the Interim Vice Chancellor, supported by my own interactions with her, has been positive, specifically insofar as there is confidence in how she is discharging her functions. The Interim Vice Chancellor appears to have successfully rebuilt trust across the ANU staff and student cohort and has the strong support of the Deans and elected members of the ANU Council. As you may have seen this week, the Interim Vice Chancellor also enjoys the support of the NTEU, ANUSA and former Vice Chancellor and Chief Scientist Emeritus Professor Ian Chubb AC. I have also been provided today with a copy of a letter expressing concern about the dysfunction of Council and noting their support of the Interim Vice Chancellor signed by 33 eminent ANU Emeriti and Alumni.

The university's finances appear in better shape and the deeply upsetting job cuts being pursued under Renew ANU have ceased. Much more work remains to be done to build on these foundations and it would appear to be in the best interests of the ANU for the Interim Vice Chancellor to be allowed to continue this work.

I am concerned that some recent appointments to Council signed off by you have led to a further deterioration in governance and ask that you give careful consideration to future appointments, including the current vacancy. The ANU Council is clearly in need of people with greater higher education expertise, fewer personal loyalties to the outgoing Chancellor and a deeper commitment to upholding the highest standards of governance and acting in the best interests of the institution.

I firmly believe that it is neither appropriate nor desirable for governments to intervene in the management of our Universities, and that their academic autonomy must be preserved and defended. Equally, however, I welcome the statement made by ACT Labor representatives on Tuesday and urge you to add your voice to the public calls for stability in the senior leadership positions at the ANU until TEQSA can conclude its investigation, an end to public reprisals and an entreaty to better governance. I believe such an intervention from you as the responsible Minister would carry great weight without overstepping appropriate boundaries.

The ANU is in a deeply fraught position and the series of events outlined above clearly merit some form of response from the Commonwealth given it is established and governed by federal legislation.

In closing I would like to renew the request from my previous correspondence that you please give fulsome consideration to whether you are satisfied, as one of the responsible Ministers, that the ANU has met, and continues to fully meet, all its obligations under both the Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act (PGPA) and PID Acts. I am copying this letter to Senator Gallagher in her capacity both as Senator for the ACT and a responsible Minister under these Acts.

Thank you for your consideration of the urgent matters raised in this correspondence. I remain at your disposal should further clarification be required. If your office requires any additional information, please don't hesitate to have them contact my Chief of Staff, Fiona Scott, on s.47F Personal privacy or fiona.scott@aph.gov.au. In the interests of transparency, this letter may be made public at a future point. Thank you once again for your time.

With best wishes,

Senator David Pocock
Independent Senator for the ACT

7 May 2026

Cc. Senator the Hon. Katy Gallagher, Minister for Finance, Minister for Women,
Minister for Government Services, Minister for the Public Service

Letter to ANU Council Members

To ANU Council Members.

As ANU Emeriti and Alumni, we are concerned by the poor governance and management of the University which has clearly emerged over the past several years and particularly over the past year.

In particular, the Council has presided over a period of unprecedented decline in the ANU's ranking and reputation. In the absence of any semblance of taking responsibility for financial management and for the ongoing reputational damage, our sense is that the Council is close to, if not currently, in a dysfunctional state.

We hope that by expressing our concerns, the Council will act without delay to work towards the restoration of ANU to its premier position within the Country's higher education sector. This cannot happen without the Council meeting its responsibility to acknowledge and support the efforts of the current Vice Chancellor to restore staff morale and management competency.

Signatures list.

s.47F Personal privacy

