

MISSION

The Go8 exists to:

1. enhance the contribution of Australia's leading universities to the nation's social, economic, cultural and environmental well-being and prosperity;
2. extend the contribution of Australia's leading universities to the generation, preservation and transfer of the world's stock of knowledge;
3. strengthen Australia's capacity to engage in and benefit from global developments and opportunities to respond to global and local challenges; and
4. expand opportunities for Australian students, regardless of background, to participate in higher education of world class.

VISION

Australia will have a group of universities recognised internationally as leaders in higher education, research and community service. By preparing the next generation of professional leaders and innovators, discovering new knowledge and extending understanding, and building relationships nationally and internationally, Go8 universities contribute to advancing Australia's wellbeing and solving the major challenges confronting the world.

The Go8 will be viewed as an authoritative source of policy advice and analysis on higher education and university research. The Go8 will be proactive in setting the policy agenda and responsive to changes in the policy environment.

VALUES

The Go8 strives to operate professionally, demonstrating integrity, quality of performance and reliability in all that we do. The Go8 also seeks to work inclusively, extending opportunities for collaboration to others achieving high standards of performance, regardless of institutional affiliation.

THE VALUE ADDED BY THE Go8

The Go8 adds value for individual universities and for Australia through:

- Influencing national policies for higher education and university research.
- Providing high quality policy analysis and advice services to its members and their staff.
- Facilitating collaboration.
- Developing international strategic alliances and networks.
- Sustaining quality brand recognition.
- Benchmarking for performance improvement.
- Offering a trusted network through which ideas and expertise are shared among the leaders of Go8 universities.
- Building community support for research universities.

The role of the Go8 is to facilitate action that adds to the capacity of member universities, not to substitute for actions that they can undertake effectively themselves.

There are differences as well as commonalities among the member universities of the Go8. Members have varying relationships with other institutions, including non-Go8 universities, and are active in other multilateral and bilateral alliances.

The Go8 works to maximise the potential for collaboration in a competitive environment.

GOALS OF THE GROUP FOR 2008-2010

The Go8 has five main goals over the next three years:

1. To share information and views within the Group.

As a result, there is enhanced learning among the leadership of the Group.

2. To influence public policy, financing and regulation of higher education and university research in Australia.

As a result, Australian government policies and regulatory frameworks enable Go8 universities to achieve their goals. Government funding sustains the international competitiveness of Go8 universities.

3. To raise the profile of Go8 universities nationally and internationally.

As a result, the special capabilities and performance standards of Go8 universities are appreciated by potential partners, students, scholars, enterprises and governments, and Go8 universities attract high quality students, scholars, professional staff and investment.

4. To facilitate collaboration within the Group.

As a result, students and staff will have expanded opportunities, and Go8 universities will develop their networks and markets.

5. To facilitate the participation of Go8 universities in the world's leading centres for research and higher education.

As a result, Australia's best researchers will access the world's best research facilities and partner with international experts in their fields, ensuring that Australia enjoys the benefits of a seat at the table in discovering the new frontiers of world knowledge.

STRATEGIC INTENT

In contributing to Australia's capability, Go8 universities will be recognised as national hubs of concentrated expertise and infrastructure, linked into strong international networks.

In relations with Australia's higher education and research institutions, the Go8 will adopt an inclusive approach to collaboration on the basis of quality of performance. The research capabilities of Go8 universities will be accessible to Australian researchers and scholars from diverse institutions. The discussion forums initiated by the Go8 will be open to participants from other Australian institutions.

In relations with government, the strategic approach of the Go8 will be primarily proactive, contributing analyses, ideas and policy solutions, and liaising with central policy departments and key line agencies.

Go8 universities, separately and collectively, will play a leading role in developing the next generation of scholarly relationships internationally. Over the long-term (25 years) perspective, Australia will strengthen its networks of influence with the world's future business, political and academic leaders.

Go8 universities will develop strong alliances with business over the next decade, and strengthen community support for the role of higher education and university research.

REQUIRED CAPABILITIES

Nationally, the Go8 will strengthen its capacity to provide authoritative analysis, policy advice and advocacy, and build influential connections with policy advisers and decision makers.

Internationally, the Go8 will increase its effectiveness in raising the profile of Australia's capabilities and linking into international networks of quality higher education and research.

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