



# 2022

**Year in  
Review**

THE UNIVERSITY OF  
NOTRE DAME AUSTRALIA



#### OUR OBJECTS

The Objects of The University of Notre Dame Australia are:

- a) the provision of university education within a context of Catholic faith and values; and
- b) the provision of an excellent standard of –
  - i) teaching, scholarship and research;
  - ii) training for the professions; and
  - iii) pastoral care for its students.



# Contents

Message from the Chancellor	4
Message from the Vice Chancellor	6
2022–2026 Strategic Plan	10
Key commitments and outcomes	11
About The University of Notre Dame Australia	12
Key statistics	13
Key achievements	14
Table of statistics	17
Governance	18
Management structure	19

#### ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF COUNTRY

The University of Notre Dame Australia is proud to acknowledge the traditional owners and custodians of this land upon which our University sits. The University acknowledges that the Fremantle Campus is located on Wadjuk Country, the Broome Campus on Yawuru Country and the Sydney Campus on Gadigal Country.

Artwork: Neta Knapp







The Honourable Chris Ellison, Chancellor of The University of Notre Dame Australia

## Message from the Chancellor

“  
... many of the students who graduated were in the formative years of their lives when the pandemic hit. They are to be commended for their resilience.  
”

Rising from humble origins with just 50 postgraduate Education students when it opened in 1992, The University of Notre Dame Australia is today a national university with a reputation for excellence in teaching and learning, student experience and pastoral care.

Driven by the founding vision of establishing a university immersed in the Catholic intellectual tradition, we have welcomed students of all faiths and none. We have steadily built on the foundation established in those early years by opening schools, structuring them into faculties and expanding the disciplines on offer.

We believe the role of a modern Catholic university runs much deeper than the creation and transmission of knowledge. We strive to change lives, to form good citizens and to produce well-rounded graduates who are ready to make a real difference to the lives of others.

This year, after extensive consultation with the University community over more than a year, we released our new Strategic Plan. The plan articulates our vision to build a stronger and brighter future for our students, staff and community. But inspired by our ethos it goes further than this, by outlining five key pillars – education for the common good, integrating practice and knowledge, transformative research, integral human development and universality. These provide a clear roadmap of how we will achieve our ambitious vision. It is a strategy that sets about retaining what makes us unique and distinctive, while also looking forward to and building for the future.

Presiding over graduation ceremonies is one of the greatest pleasures of this role, and this year we finally had the opportunity to celebrate the academic achievements of thousands of our students who had previously missed out on their ceremonies because of COVID-19 lockdowns or restrictions. It is worth noting that while 2022 saw the gradual relaxation of restrictions, many of the students who graduated were in the formative years of their lives when the pandemic hit. They are to be commended for their resilience.

I thank our Vice Chancellor, Professor Francis Campbell, and all our staff for their diligence and commitment throughout the year. It is because of their hard work that we have managed to get to where we are today. I know that with their continued dedication, the backing of our Notre Dame community and the guidance of our Strategic Plan, we will be able to build the strong and bright future we are striving for.

**The Honourable Chris Ellison**  
Chancellor



Professor Francis Campbell, Vice Chancellor of The University of Notre Dame Australia

## Message from the Vice Chancellor

**The Australian Government's latest Student Experience Survey once again ranked Notre Dame as one of the highest performing universities nationally for the undergraduate student experience.**

Our unwavering mission at The University of Notre Dame Australia is to help form our students so they can play full and active roles in society.

The five pillars of our 2022-2026 Strategic Plan — universality, education for the common good, transformative research, integrating practice and knowledge and integral human development — will ensure Notre Dame continues its distinctive journey of excellence and impact as a Catholic university.

To achieve our bold vision, we must continue to take important steps to deliver financial stability and sustainability.

The University finished 2022 in a surplus position for the second successive year. This was the result of hard work from staff all across the University and prudent financial management, amid a softening domestic student recruitment market, border closure decisions, and a strong economy and labour market.

At this juncture, I want to acknowledge and thank the University's staff for their tireless dedication and commitment to our University and its students. I would also like to recognise the continued support of the University's Directors, Trustees and Governors.

In 2022, enrolments across the sector were down by 6 per cent on average, and this was a challenge for Notre Dame also. Despite the shifting recruiting environment, Notre Dame was able to respond in a manner that positioned the University for growth in 2023 and beyond.

We are embracing opportunities to diversify our revenue base through the development of new program offerings and expansion into new markets, all the while ensuring our focus remains on supporting our students and providing them an outstanding university experience and education. As such, we will continue to invest into our national learning, teaching and research facilities and drive improvements in our technology infrastructure.

New undergraduate and postgraduate programs were introduced across the country, particularly in critical professions facing severe labour shortages, including essential areas such as nursing, aged and disability care, allied health, school education and early childhood education; new paramedicine programs were developed, which have been positively received, and a new online postgraduate qualification that will advance the careers of health professionals and meet industry demand for skilled leaders. Furthermore, a fast-tracked teacher training program for teachers wanting to specialise in early learning was also rolled out. Students who already hold a diploma in early childhood studies may now obtain the degree in just two years (instead of three).

The Australian Government's latest Student Experience Survey once again ranked Notre Dame as one of the highest performing universities nationally for the undergraduate student experience.

The University was ranked fifth in the country for the quality of the entire undergraduate educational experience, and gains were made in teaching quality, learner engagement, learning resources and skills development.



Notre Dame retained all five-star rankings across thirteen undergraduate and postgraduate categories for student experience and graduate outcomes in the latest Good Universities Guide. For undergraduate experience, five-star rankings were given in the categories of overall educational experience, learning engagement, skills development, student support, teaching quality, full-time employment and starting salary.

For postgraduate studies, five stars were awarded for overall educational experience, learning engagement, skills development, teaching quality, full-time employment and starting salary. For the overall educational experience, Notre Dame is ranked second and third in the country, respectively, for undergraduate and postgraduate offerings.

#### **Every university breathes with two lungs: teaching and research.**

In 2022, the work of our researchers changed the lives of people locally, in remote and regional areas of Australia, and worldwide.

In an Australian first, our researchers trialled a new cervical screening program in the Kimberley region of Western Australia, enabling medical staff to travel to remote communities with the latest portable testing equipment in a bid to reduce unacceptably high rates of cervical cancer.

Notre Dame researchers also developed a world-first eye screening system that uses artificial intelligence to detect eye diseases that can cause blindness, and they worked on a ground-breaking study that revealed increased screening for a potentially fatal heart condition that could save more than 10,000 Australian lives each year.

Beyond the health field, a team of our researchers taught us that the amount of plastic waste washing up in Cockburn Sound south of Perth had more than halved since bans on some single-use plastics were introduced.

And finally, hair samples collected from the graves of some of Perth's earliest residents gave us a glimpse back in time at the health of people from the gold rush era, while another study conducted by Notre Dame investigators found regular gym sessions were the key to improving golfing performance for people with age-related aches and pains.

#### **Over the course of 2022, Notre Dame continued to forge partnerships across the globe.**

We were delighted to enter into a landmark student exchange agreement with the University of Notre Dame in the United States, helping us become a more highly connected international institution. We became a member of their prestigious Global Gateway Network, opening opportunities for our students to study in the US, London and Jerusalem, and for more international students to visit our Australian campuses.

Visits to the Catholic University of Paris, St Mary's University College, Belfast and St Mary's University, London also opened the possibilities of offering joint degrees, study exchanges, guest lectures, joint international conferences and research projects.



**Every university breathes with two lungs: teaching and research.**



#### **Further advances were made in providing a Notre Dame education and experience to all.**

The Australian Government awarded the University 600 new equity places, which will allow more students to pursue higher education, especially those from underrepresented cohorts including regional and remote, Indigenous and first-in-family. This will help us to further grow the national workforce in key professions such as nursing, teaching and allied health.

An important new partnership was established with the Clontarf Foundation, aiming to encourage more Indigenous students to pursue a university education. Clontarf Academy students were welcomed onto campus, where they were given a first-hand insight into university life.

In partnership with Sydney Catholic Schools and All Saints Catholic College, Liverpool, we launched a new initiative to provide additional support and guidance to students from across Western Sydney who aspire to a university education. The new Student Support Centre at All Saints College provides students with dedicated advice and support on university opportunities and pathways.

#### **Technology and cyber security upgrades were a feature of 2022.**

A trusted and secure technology foundation was developed that will ensure the safety and integrity of our digital assets; a reflection of our commitment to providing a world-class education in a secure digital environment. Key security programs were implemented, a number of teaching spaces were upgraded and new laptops were rolled out to professional and academic staff across all campuses.

We completed major building works to enhance the student experience, provide access to state-of-the-art technology and improve safety. New nursing simulation labs with screen mirror technology and skills assessment cameras were delivered across Fremantle and Sydney to support increased Commonwealth supported places. Prindiville Hall in Fremantle was upgraded to meet the needs of students, a new CCTV network was installed across all our campuses, and new biomedical laboratories, accommodation offerings in Kununurra and a Fremantle physiotherapy gym were all delivered.

#### **Recognising supporters of the University.**

This year marked 30 years of the Knights of the Southern Cross Education Foundation, which has supported hundreds of teachers to undertake further studies in religious education and philosophy at Notre Dame. The Knights are a major benefactor and have contributed more than \$2.2 million towards a range of programs since the University was founded. We are extremely grateful for their continued support.

We were delighted to award Honorary Doctorates to the Governor of New South Wales, Her Excellency the Honourable Margaret Beazley AC KC, in recognition of her outstanding contribution to judiciary and the law, and Reverend Monsignor Kevin Long in honour of his exceptional service to the University and the Catholic Church.

This year was one of growth and progress for the University. But there is still much more to do. We have ambitious goals for the future and a clear plan for how to achieve them – one that requires fresh thinking and innovation. It is an exciting time to be part of the Notre Dame community, and I look forward to building on our success and working together to bring our ideas and plans to fruition in the coming years.

**Professor Francis Campbell**  
Vice Chancellor

# 2022–2026 Strategic Plan



## Universality

Building on our reputation as a leading Australian university, we will use our connections, networks, and relationships to provide every possible opportunity the world has to offer to our students, staff, and university community. Universality will demand that all our teaching and research cuts across disciplines and be carried out with a global outlook even as we continue to foster communities on our Australian campuses.



## Transformative Research

Our learning and teaching is enriched by high quality research and scholarship. We want to create and transmit new knowledge, but we also commit to making a positive difference by undertaking research which addresses real world issues and challenges, improving the lives of people in our communities.



## Educating for the Common Good

Building upon centuries of tradition, we will continue to innovate, challenge, and renew what we offer to our students, staff and society. We will ensure as many people as possible, from wide and varied backgrounds, have the opportunity to benefit from higher education. In doing so we will play a part in forming good citizens rich in humanity, with a strong ethical framework, and with the commitment, courage, and confidence to serve the common good.



## Integral Human Development

We will help each of our students and staff flourish and achieve excellence as individuals and be the best version of themselves. This begins by embracing all the opportunities, privileges and benefits that come from a university education. We encourage our students and staff to contribute to the common good of communities, going beyond their individual wants and needs to seek the good of others using their education and all the formation we provide.



## Integrating Practice and Knowledge

The University will ensure that everyone in our community is prepared for the world of work through practical real-world learning and experiences. This stems from our wider belief in the role of tertiary education to prepare our students for a world in which they will live and work.

**In summary, our goals are bold and achieving them requires discipline and vigour. Our ambition is to serve society through educating and forming our students so they can in turn serve the communities in which they live and work. It makes for a significant and exciting time as we seek to position Notre Dame as the leading Catholic University in the region, and to form the whole of the student with a readiness to act and to have a positive impact in the world.**

# Key commitments and outcomes

By the end of 2026, Notre Dame will have sustainably achieved the following:

## Universality

**Integrating and embracing differences, equipping students for our rapidly changing world**

- Our Core Curriculum will have an international component. We will offer the Core Curriculum beyond our campuses and provide our students the opportunity to undertake a period of time studying abroad with a partner institution. Students will gain perspective on the universality and unity of the truth and how it manifests across disciplines and in different cultural contexts.
- Each Faculty will be working with international university partners to co-design and co-deliver joint degrees.
- International experiences will be available to students across all programs.
- 12.5 per cent of our student population will be international by 2026, achieved with our international university and research partners.

## Educating for the Common Good

**Interdisciplinary learning recognising the unity of knowledge and contributing confidence to act and serve**

- We will enhance our Core Curriculum to serve as the basis of the integration across all disciplines.
- All undergraduate programs will have a pathway, postgraduate and microcredential/short course option.
- Each Faculty will have at least two joint international degree programs.
- A greater number of students will have broadened their learning experiences by pursuing interdisciplinary and nested awards.<sup>1</sup>

## Integrating Practice and Knowledge

**Development of capable citizens, with a confidence to act and contribute to serving the common good**

- All programs will have practical experience opportunities for all students.
- Each Faculty will be working with partners to co-design postgraduate programs.
- Each Faculty will be providing professional learning and accreditation courses for aligned professions, including microcredentials.
- Maintained or improved performance across the QILT rankings including Student Experience (>90 per cent), Graduate Outcomes Survey (>90 per cent), and top 10 for Employer Satisfaction.

## Transformative Research

**Integrated partnerships, developing new knowledge and solutions to impact and change lives**

- World standard ratings in the majority of our Fields of Research in the Excellence in Research in Australia Quality, Impact and Engagement assessment (2026).
- Increased number of external grants involving our staff and where Notre Dame is the Administering Institution.
- Increased number of Higher Degree by Research enrolments that are supported by industry/profession partners and completed on time.

## Integral Human Development

**Whole student formation and preparation to be an integrated, universal and impactful force for good**

- Further steps will have been taken to increase access to a university education at Notre Dame. We will have increased Equity student enrolments – 15 per cent growth per annum for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students, 5 per cent for low SES students, and one per cent for regional and remote students.
- Reconciliation Action Plans will be developed, embraced and embedded, tailored for each campus.
- Improvements will have been made across our operations based on the goals of Laudato Si<sup>2</sup>, with a focus on achieving Net Zero emissions, energy, water, and waste reduction targets per campus.
- Action having been taken to ensure all our investments and practices are ethical.
- All staff will have been encouraged to engage in personal formation and community activities.

**The full strategy is available on our website [strategy.notredame.edu.au](https://strategy.notredame.edu.au)**

<sup>1</sup> Nested awards are a set of courses of study that are offered sequentially and can lead to qualifications at different Australian Qualifications Framework (AQF) levels.

<sup>2</sup> The Laudato Si' Action Platform is a unique collaboration between the Vatican, an international coalition of Catholic organisations, and "all men and women of good will." <https://laudatosiactionplatform.org/about/>



# About The University of Notre Dame Australia

At The University of Notre Dame Australia, we believe in the power of education to change lives.

Our story started more than 30 years ago with a vision to establish Australia's first university with the Catholic intellectual tradition at its core.

Today, we have almost 12,000 students across campuses in Fremantle, Broome and Sydney, and seven clinical schools in regional New South Wales and Victoria.

Our students are our top priority, and our student experience, employment and graduate outcomes are among the very best in Australia.

As a modern Catholic university, we are committed to helping students grow and offering them a unique and fulfilling education experience.

Our Catholic identity is integral to who we are, but we are also open to all beliefs and views.

We encourage rigorous enquiry, debate and discussion. We believe in seeking truth: best achieved when, as Sir John Henry Newman's motto states, the "heart speaks unto heart".

We take great pride in educating the whole person – the academic, social, physical and spiritual dimensions – and are deeply committed to supporting our students to be the best versions of themselves.

In 2022 we launched our new Strategic Plan. This plan underpins our Objects, in particular our commitment to supporting the professions through the pursuit of academic excellence and impactful research.

Our five pillars – universality, education for the common good, transformative research, integrating practice and knowledge and integral human development – will ensure we continue our journey of uniqueness, impact and excellence.

## Key statistics



### A national university

We have campuses in Fremantle, Sydney and Broome, as well as seven clinical schools in the regions.



### A 5-star experience

Notre Dame is rated five stars for Teaching Quality, Skills Development, Learner Engagement, Graduate Salary and Full-Time Employment.\*

*Good Universities Guide 2023, undergraduate and postgraduate categories.*



### Quality graduates

Notre Dame's undergraduate full-time employment rate is 85.5 per cent and higher than the Australian average across all universities of 79.1 per cent.\*

*\*For 2022 undergraduate full-time employment rate using UA data.*



### A top ranked university

We are ranked as one of the country's best performing universities for learner engagement and skills development by the Australian Government.



### Impactful research

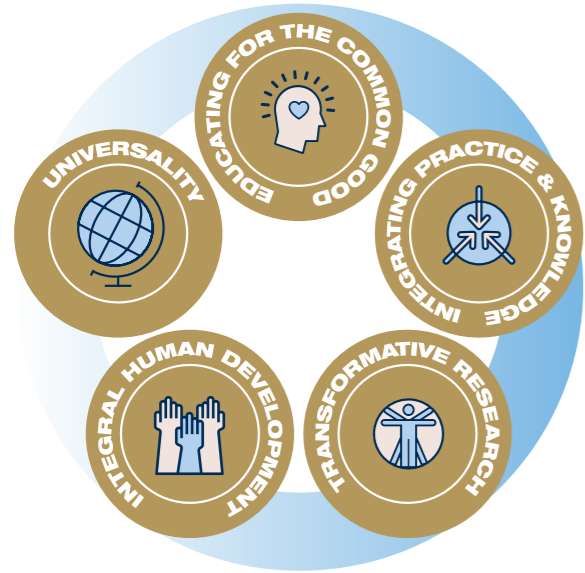
Notre Dame's research publications have increased by 45.6% since 2019.



### Students and staff

We have almost 12,000 students and more than 850 employees (full-time equivalent) across our campuses.

# Key achievements



## A fresh vision

We launched our new Strategic Plan, It's Our Future, which provides a clear roadmap of the steps we will take to build a stronger future for our Notre Dame community. Our commitment to this vision is reflected in the five pillars of the plan: education for the common good, integrating practice and knowledge, transformative research, integral human development and universality.



## Celebrating our graduates

We celebrated the hard work, dedication, personal development and outstanding success of 2,792 Notre Dame graduates at ceremonies across the country. This included hundreds of former students who missed their original ceremonies because of COVID-19, but were finally given the chance to mark the milestone together.

## A new Core Curriculum

A new national Core Curriculum program was announced, which will provide students with life-long skills and empower them with the fundamentals of critical thinking. Through the study of Philosophy, Ethics and Theology, our Core Curriculum will encourage students to solve problems, ask questions and consider how they can achieve their career ambitions while building a better world.



## Australian Government support

Notre Dame was awarded more than 600 new Commonwealth Supported Places to help grow the skilled workforce in essential professions such as nursing, teaching and allied health. This will allow more people to pursue a university education, including those from regional and remote areas, Indigenous people and those who are first-in-family.



## Global opportunities

Notre Dame became part of the highly prestigious Global Gateway Network hosted by our founding partner, the University of Notre Dame (Indiana). The landmark student exchange agreement provides our students with a ticket to the world, opening up study and research opportunities in the United States, London and Jerusalem.



## Honouring excellence

The University awarded an Honorary Doctorate to the Governor of New South Wales, Her Excellency the Honourable Margaret Beazley AC KC, in recognition of her outstanding service to the judiciary and the law. We also awarded an Honorary Degree to Reverend Monsignor Kevin Long in honour of his remarkable service to the University and the Catholic Church.





# Table of statistics

## Student statistics

		2022	2021	2020	2019	2018
Number of students	<b>Total</b>	<b>11,860</b>	<b>12,291</b>	<b>12,674</b>	<b>11,727</b>	<b>11,712</b>
	Commencing	4,341	4,286	4,839	4,095	4,466
Student load (EFTSL)	<b>Total</b>	<b>8,813</b>	<b>9,415</b>	<b>9,651</b>	<b>9,032</b>	<b>9,041</b>
	Undergraduate	6,951	7,472	7,671	7,312	7,419
	Postgraduate	1,861	1,943	1,980	1,720	1,622
Student load by funding source (EFTSL)	Commonwealth Grant Scheme	7,682	8,278	6,320	5,831	5,799
	Research Training Scheme	129	167	187	210	225
	Domestic fee paying	762	840	2,950	2,842	2,857
	International	240	130	194	148	160

## Staff statistics

Staff (FTE)	Total	852	762	890	937	914
Teaching only	105	68	83	97	90	
Research only	16	13	12	9	8	
Teaching and research	306	300	353	361	351	
Other	425	381	441	470	465	

The University's 2022 Financial Report is available at [notredame.edu.au/annual-performance](https://notredame.edu.au/annual-performance)



# Governance

## Board of Directors

**Hon Christopher Ellison**  
Chancellor. Former Senator & Commonwealth Government Minister

**Mr Michael L'Estrange AO**  
Deputy Chancellor. Director, Qantas.

**Professor Francis Campbell**  
Vice Chancellor

**Ms Hilary Johnston-Croke**  
Former Principal of Kincoppal-Rose Bay School, Sydney; Director, The Madeleine & Alannah Foundation; Director, The Infants Home, Sydney; Chair, Global Leaders Advisory Board, The University of Wollongong; Director, Mary MacKillop Today

**Mr Andrew Whitechurch**  
Non-executive Director

**Ms Louise McCann**  
Director, Macquarie Media Limited ASX; Director, Cabcharge Australia Limited ASX; Director, Grant Thornton Australia Limited; Director, Credit Union Australia Limited

**Mr John Prendiville**  
Chairman, Wilsons Private Wealth Group; Deputy Chairman, Smartgroup Ltd; Director, Point Capital Pty Ltd; Director, Shift Financial Pty Limited

**Mr Adrian Arundell**  
Managing Partner, Azure Capital; Director, St John of God Healthcare Limited

**Mr Jack de Groot**  
Chief Executive Officer, St Vincent de Paul Society NSW; Director, St John of God Healthcare Australia; Director, Caritas Australia

**Mr Richard Haddock AO**  
Chair, St Vincent's Curran Foundation; Chair, Catholic Care, Sydney; Chair, Investment Committee, Sydney Archdiocese; Chair, Trustees of Mary Aikenhead Ministries

## Trustees

**Hon Christopher Ellison**  
Chancellor. Former Senator & Commonwealth Government Minister

**Mr Michael L'Estrange AO**  
Deputy Chancellor. Director, Qantas.

**Professor Francis Campbell**  
Vice Chancellor

**Mr Michael Digges**  
Business Manager, Catholic Archdiocese of Sydney

**Rev. John I. Jenkins, C.S.C.**  
President, University of Notre Dame Indiana

**Mr Tony Howarth**  
Director, Alinta Energy; Director, BNP Management Pty Ltd; Director, Viburnum Funds; Chairman, St John of God Foundation; Director, Coventry Group Ltd

**Hon Justice Robert Mazza**  
Judge, Supreme Court of Western Australia

**Mr Peter Prendiville**  
Chairman, Prendiville Enterprises; Director, St John of God Healthcare

**Ms Rebecca Davies**  
Director: Defence Health Ltd, Catholic Healthcare Ltd, Medtech Actuator, Chris O'Brien Lifehouse, Transparency International Australia and National Heart Foundation.

**Sr. Annette Cunliffe RSC**  
Sisters of Charity

**The Most Rev Richard Umbers**  
Auxiliary bishop of the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Sydney

**Ms Anne Pitos**  
Former Principal, Iona Presentation College

## Governors

**Hon Christopher Ellison**  
Chancellor

**Mr Michael L'Estrange AO**  
Deputy Chancellor

**Professor Francis Campbell**  
Vice Chancellor

**Mr Michael Digges**

**Sr. Annette Cunliffe**

**Mr Justin Carroll**

**Rev. John I. Jenkins, C.S.C.**

**Hon Justice Kate Glancy**

**Mr Jack de Groot**

**Ms Hilary Johnston-Croke**

**Hon Justice Robert Mazza**

**Ms Louise McCann**

**Professor Con Michael AO**

**Mr Stephen Newton**

**Hon Justice Neville Owen AO**

**Ms Anne Pitos**

**Mr John Prendiville**

**Mr Peter Prendiville**

**Ms Rebecca Davies**

**Ms Nicole Lockwood**

**Ms Meneesha Michalka**

**Mr Adrian Arundell**

**Mr Richard Haddock AO**

**The Most Rev Richard Umbers**

**Mr Andrew Whitechurch**

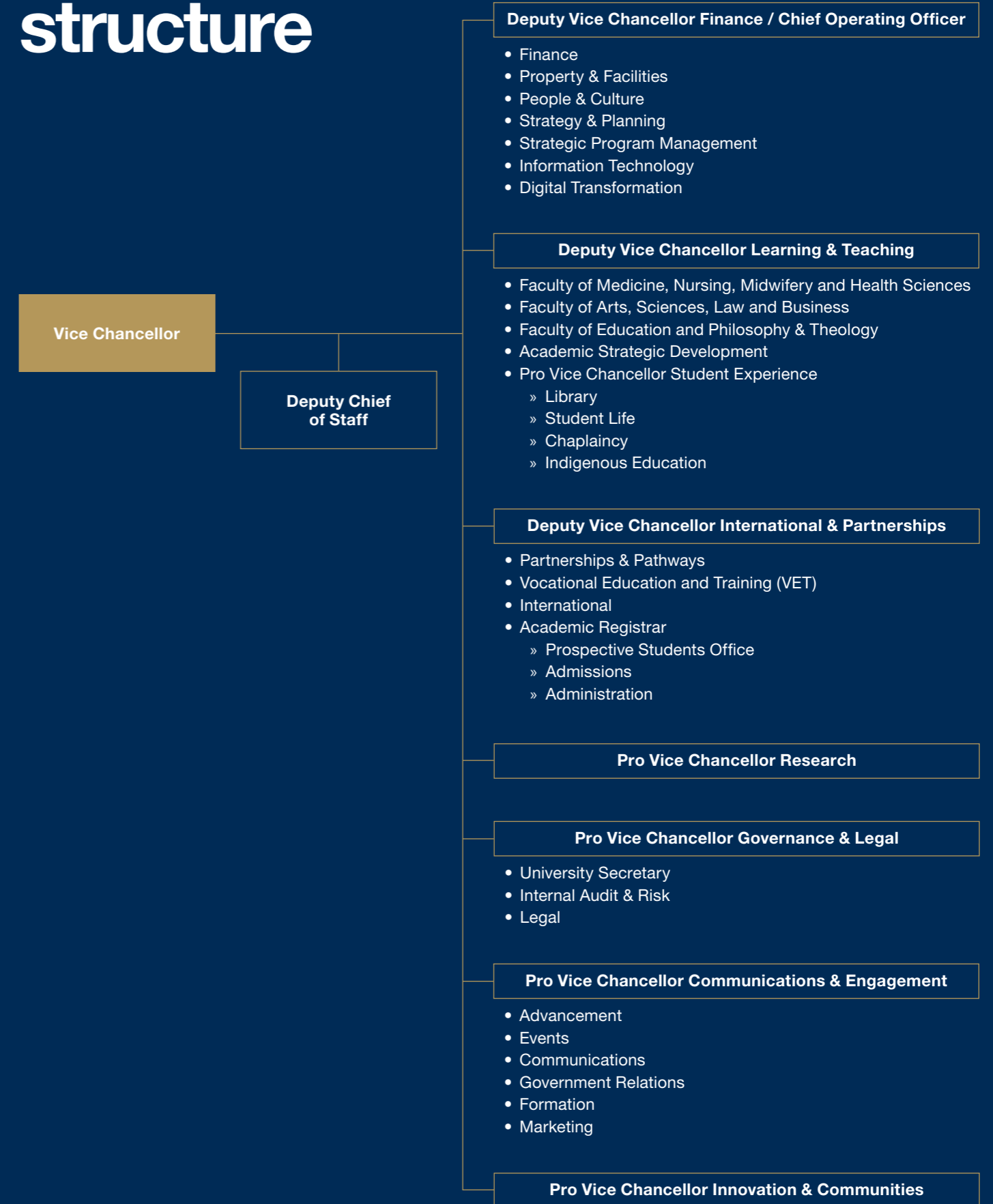
**Mr Tony Howarth**

**Mr Glen Chidlow**

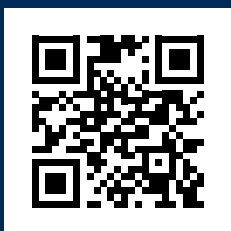
**Dr Lyn Henderson-Yates**

**Professor Anthony Shannon**

# Management structure







Visit Notre Dame's website  
for more information.

[notredame.edu.au](https://notredame.edu.au)

Join our online community



@notredamesyd  
@notredameaustralia