

EDITH COWAN UNIVERSITY

ANNUAL REPORT 2023

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ECU acknowledges and respects its continuing association with the Whadjuk people and the Wardandi people of the Noongar nation, the traditional custodians of the land upon which its Australian campuses stand.

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STATEMENT OF COMPLIANCE

Hon. Dr Tony Buti MLA
Minister for Education
5th Floor, Dumas House
2 Havelock Street
WEST PERTH WA 6005

14 March 2024

Dear Minister,

In accordance with section 63 of the Financial Management Act 2006, we hereby submit for your information and presentation to Parliament, Edith Cowan University's Annual Report for the reporting period ending 31 December 2023.

The Annual Report has been prepared in accordance with the provisions of the Financial Management Act 2006. The financial statements comply with Australian Accounting Standards Simplified Disclosures issued by the Australian Accounting Standards Board.



Denise Goldsworthy AO
Chancellor



Professor Steve Chapman CBE
Vice-Chancellor



CHANCELLOR'S FOREWORD

It is my pleasure to introduce the *Edith Cowan University Annual Report 2023*. This report articulates the University's steady progress towards the goals set in our 2022-2026 Strategic Plan, Towards the University of the Future. In 2023, we continued to provide an exceptional student experience, while delivering impactful research to support our industry partners and communities. Our achievements continue to be recognised: ECU was ranked sixth out of 40 Australian universities in the Australian Financial Review's inaugural Best University Ranking. I applaud the staff at ECU whose dedication and commitment to teaching, research and engagement made this achievement possible.

The higher education sector continues to face many new challenges, yet ECU has remained steadfast and future focused. At the University Council biennial retreat, members considered the needs of the 'learners of the future' and current disruptors, such as artificial intelligence, and were assured of ECU's readiness in relation to cybersecurity.

Throughout the year, Council and ECU's senior executive have engaged thoughtfully with the Australian Universities Accord Review Panel, and with the WA Minister for Education and the Panel for the WA Universities Review. As a member of the executive of the University Chancellors Council, I have been afforded the opportunity to provide the Accord Review Panel with advice on matters of corporate governance and financial sustainability; areas in which ECU is leading the sector. In making its submissions to these reviews, ECU has drawn on its success as a high-quality access university and has contributed ideas for improving access to higher education, the student experience, and success for people from under-represented groups, including First Nations people.

ECU's culture is guided by its purpose: to transform lives and enrich society. In 2023, the University Council supported a 'yes' vote to recognise Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in the Constitution through a Voice to Parliament. This position aligned with ECU's values, and our long-standing commitment to positive change in our communities. ECU will continue to support our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students, staff and communities in the post-referendum context.

The development of ECU's new City Campus continued apace in 2023. As well as delivering a new state-of-the-art campus for our students, ECU City will reshape the Perth CBD and provide a new 'front door' to the University to encourage collaboration and innovation with our industry partners.

In 2023, Council welcomed Ms Kelly Reynolds and Mr Faizan Akram as two new members. We also farewellled Ms Elsa Chew. I am very grateful to my Council colleagues for their expertise, service to ECU and commitment to the values that underpin this institution.

Looking to the year ahead, we will farewell our Vice-Chancellor, Professor Steve Chapman CBE, who will retire in July 2024 after almost a decade of transformational leadership at ECU. Steve has been a visionary leader and a driving force behind the growth and success of our university locally, nationally and internationally. Under his leadership, ECU has gone from strength to strength and his unwavering commitment to our students, staff, academic excellence in teaching and research, innovation and community engagement, has helped position ECU for continued success. Steve will be leaving ECU in an enviable position: as a university with an optimistic, inclusive and collegial culture, that is financially secure, and clear in its strategy and direction. Council is advancing the recruitment for a new Vice-Chancellor who can build on Steve's legacy and lead ECU as we continue our journey of growth and advancement, towards the University of the Future.

Denise Goldsworthy AO
Chancellor



VICE-CHANCELLOR'S SUMMARY

2023 has been a year of substantial planning, development and consolidation for ECU as we transition to the University of the Future articulated in our *Strategic Plan 2023-2026*. A significant element of this transition is ECU's new City Campus, which will open its doors to students, staff and the Perth community in 2026. However, not everything in ECU's future is known to us: the Australian Universities Accord Review and the WA Universities Review has created uncertainty for universities, particularly for those in WA. Throughout 2023, ECU's senior executive and Council engaged positively with the review panels as we sought to influence their recommendations for change in the best interests of ECU, our students, staff and communities.

In 2023, ECU opened its new state-of-the-art campus in Colombo, Sri Lanka, continued to grow its transnational partnerships, and welcomed a record number of international students from over 70 countries to its WA campuses. ECU's international education performance has been truly outstanding and unequalled, as we recovered, and bettered, our pre-pandemic position.

ECU continued to be recognised for the outstanding quality of its teaching and the exceptional student experience we provide. In the Good Universities Guide 2024, ECU achieved 5-stars for teaching quality for the 17th consecutive year, and is the number one university in Australia for learning resources according to postgraduate students. In the QILT Student Experience Survey, ECU was the top ranked public university in Australia for overall experience, skills development and student support. It is so pleasing to observe the virtuous circle created at ECU, where the talent, dedication and determination of our staff has created a student experience unequalled in Australia, and high levels of staff satisfaction that places ECU ahead of most universities.



ECU has already achieved its 2026 target by ranking among the top 400 universities in the *Times Higher Education* World University Rankings and, in the *Times Higher Education* Young University Rankings, we climbed to 83rd in 2023. These results reflect the continuing endeavours of ECU researchers as the citation impact of our high-quality research outputs continues to grow. In the Australian Financial Review's inaugural Best University Ranking, ECU was placed sixth out of 40 Australian universities and was the only WA university in the top 10.

Our commitment to gender equity remains strong. In 2023, ECU achieved four more Athena Swan Science in Australia Gender Equity (SAGE) Cygnet Awards for outstanding efforts to deliver gender-equal opportunities and outcomes for women in Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics and Medicine (STEMM) disciplines, and reached the maximum five SAGE Cygnet Awards. ECU is the first WA institution to achieve this milestone.

ECU continued to partner with government and business to support the success of regional communities and, in 2023, we secured \$17 million in Commonwealth funding for the University Department of Rural Health South West to support clinical placements and provide vital education and health services for people in the South West Region of WA.

In August, I announced that I would retire in July 2024. Being ECU's Vice-Chancellor for more than nine years has been an absolute privilege and the highlight of my career as a university leader. At the end of my final full year at ECU, I would like to thank our Chancellor, Council members, leadership team, staff and students for their courage and conviction in achieving an ECU culture of excellence, collegiality, equity and inclusion.

Professor Steve Chapman CBE
Vice-Chancellor



Over 30,000 undergraduate and postgraduate students.

ECU OVERVIEW

Edith Cowan University (ECU) was established by the *Edith Cowan University Act 1984 (WA)* and is named in honour of Edith Dircksey Cowan, the first woman to be elected to an Australian parliament.

ECU has over 30,000 undergraduate and postgraduate students, including international students from over 70 countries, and a vibrant research community. There are three campuses in Western Australia at Joondalup, Mount Lawley and Bunbury. The University is constructing a new campus in the heart of the Perth CBD, due to open in 2026.



ECU'S PURPOSE, VISION, AND VALUES

ECU's **purpose** is to transform lives and enrich society.

The University's **vision** is to lead the sector in educational experience, research with impact, and in positive contributions to industry and communities.

To achieve its vision, the University will:

- Be dedicated to every student's success
- Provide real-world research solutions
- Create partnerships for economic and social wellbeing
- Empower our staff to lead in a diverse and values-based organisation
- Secure our future through innovation and leadership.

Students, staff and Council members conduct their study, work and service to the University and community in ways that embrace the **values** of:

- **Integrity:** we are ethical, honest, and fair and demonstrate trust and personal responsibility
- **Respect:** we treat everyone within our diverse community with dignity and respect
- **Rational Inquiry:** our decision-making is driven by evidence, sound reasoning, and creative thinking
- **Personal Excellence:** we demonstrate the highest personal and professional standards
- **Courage:** we are bold and resolute in our thinking and actions in pursuit of our goals.

CONTROLLED ENTITIES

The University holds a controlling interest in the following entities:



ECU Holdings Pty Ltd

An entity established to focus on generating revenue, via commercial activities, for re-investment in ECU's academic activities.



Edith Cowan Accommodation Holdings Pty Ltd

A provider of residential and commercial accommodation, and related ancillary services, that assists in establishing affordable and supportive living for ECU students residing on campus.



KEY STUDENT STATISTICS

Total student enrolments: 30,125

By campus

Joondalup	16,588
Mount Lawley	4,065
South West	744
International study centres	1,349
Online	7,389

By school

School of Arts and Humanities	4,735
School of Business and Law	4,931
School of Education	5,108
School of Engineering	1,970
School of Medical and Health Sciences	3,485
School of Nursing and Midwifery	3,885
School of Science	3,311
Western Australian Academy of Performing Arts (WAAPA)	1,235
Other*	1,475

By course level

Doctorate (research) [^]	654
Masters degree (research)	179
Masters degree (coursework)	7,668
Graduate diploma	583
Graduate certificate	1,143
Bachelor honours degree	866
Bachelor degree	16,996
Associate degree	8
Diploma or advanced diploma (HE)	163
Undergraduate short course	15
Enabling course	1,395
Vocational education and training (VET)	402
Non-award studies	63

Note: Students with multiple course enrolments are counted once based on the course with the highest EFTSL value. Cross-institutional enrolments are not included. *Other* includes Business Support (for non-award courses) and the Centre for Learning and Teaching (for the Graduate Certificate in Academic Practice). [^]There were no Doctorate level coursework enrolments in 2023.



ECU COUNCIL

Under the *Edith Cowan University Act 1984*, the University is governed by the ECU Council. Council's responsibilities include appointing the Vice-Chancellor, approving ECU's strategic direction and budget, and overseeing the management of the University. Council is chaired by the Chancellor, who is elected by Council. ECU's current Chancellor is Denise Goldsworthy AO.

The following committees report to ECU Council:

Academic Board

Animal Ethics Committee

Education Committee

Human Research Ethics Committee

Internationalisation Committee

Radiation Bio-Safety Hazardous Substances Committee

Research and Higher Degrees Committee

Student Appeals Committee

Council Executive

Council Remuneration Committee

ECU Foundation Board

ECU South West Campus (Bunbury) Advisory Board

Governance and Nominations Committee

Honorary Awards Committee

Legislative Committee

Quality, Audit and Risk Committee

Resources Committee

Advisory Board of the Western Australian Academy of Performing Arts

In addition, the Vice-Chancellor reports to ECU Council, supported by committees providing advice to the Vice-Chancellor, including:

University Executive

University Executive

ECU Athena Swan Charter Committee

ECU Athena Swan Charter Committee

ECU Health Centre Committee

Equity and Diversity Committee

Disability Access and Inclusion Sub-Committee

Kudjikat Wow-r-ing

Pride@ECU Committee

Professional Services Leadership Group

ECU South West Campus (Bunbury) Advisory Board

University Health and Safety Committee

School/Service Centre Health and Safety Committees (x16)

Vice-Chancellor's Student Advisory Forum

Council members are listed to the right, along with their basis of appointment as per the ECU Act and the number of meetings attended.

Name	Start/end	Attended
Appointed by the Governor - 9(1)(a)		
Kelly Reynolds <i>BSc(Hons), MBA, PCC, FGIA, FAICD</i>	From 2 Mar	5 / 6
Michael Rundus <i>BBus(Hons) GradDipIS CA</i>	Full year	5 / 6
Pia Turcinov <i>LLB BA GradDipLS GAICD</i>	Full year	5 / 6
Chair of Academic Board,ex officio- 9(1)(b)		
Associate Professor Madeleine Ogilvie <i>GradDipBus MBA PhD SRN</i>	Full year	6 / 6
Vice-Chancellor,ex officio- 9(1)(c)		
Professor Steve Chapman <i>CBE BSc(Hons) PhD HonDSc FRSE FRSC CChem</i>	Full year	6 / 6
Elected by academic staff - 9(1)(d)		
Professor Craig Speelman <i>BSc(Hons) PhD</i>	Full year	5 / 6
Elected by professional staff - 9(1)(e)		
Colin Watson <i>BA(EdSt) GradDipEd(Prim)</i>	Full year	6 / 6
Elected by students - 9(1)(f)		
Elsa Chew <i>BSc(BiomedSc)</i>	To 10 Oct	4 / 4
Sarah Rizwan	Full Year	6 / 6
Muhammad Faizan Akram <i>BTech(Eng) BEng(Civil)Hons</i>	From 11 Oct	2 / 2
Elected by alumni - 9(1)(g)		
Dr Susan King <i>TeachCert BA BEd MEd PhD FAIMWA GAICD</i>	Full year	6 / 6
Dr Darren Webb <i>BSc(HumBiol) MCompSc GradCertResComm PhD MACS(Snr) CP CT IP3P HCANZA(ProfMem) AFAIDH</i>	Full year	6 / 6
Co-opted by Council - 9(1)(h)		
Gaye McMath <i>BCom MBA FCPA FAICD</i>	Full year	6 / 6
Monish Paul <i>BBus MBA GAICD</i>	Full year	6 / 6
Robert Radley, Deputy Chancellor <i>BSc(Hons) MSc(Eng) MBA GAICD</i>	Full year	5 / 6
Elizabeth Tylich <i>BA LLB(Hons) MComLaw FGIA</i>	Full year	4 / 6
Gningala Yarran-Mark <i>LLB BSc(Hons) MBusLead</i>	Full year	5 / 6
Elected Chancellor by Council - 9(1)(i)		
Denise Goldsworthy, Chancellor <i>AO BMetal(Hons) FAIM FTSE GAICD</i>	Full year	6 / 6

ORGANISATIONAL CHART

as at 31st December 2023

University Council
Denise Goldsworthy AO *Chancellor*

Vice-Chancellor
Professor Steve Chapman CBE

Senior Deputy Vice-Chancellor
Professor Arshad Omari

Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Students, Equity and Indigenous)
Professor Braden Hill

Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Education)
Professor Rowena Harper

Deputy Vice-Chancellor (International)
Jake Garman

Digital and Campus Services
Vito Forte
Chief Information Officer

Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Sport)
Professor Sophia Nimphius

Centre for Learning and Teaching
Dr Katrina Strampel
Director

Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Sri Lanka)
Professor Daryoush Habibi

People and Culture
Hanlie du Plessis
Director

Access and Equity
Dr Fiona Navin
Director

Library Services Centre
Constance Wiebrands

Pro-Vice-Chancellor (China)
Professor Wei Wang

Strategic and Governance Services Centre
Joanne Quinn
Director

Academic Director Kurongkurl Katitjin
Professor Dan McAullay
Dean

International Office
Associate Professor Helen Vella Bonavita
Dean, International Relations
Marko Remes
Dean, International Business Operations

Student Administration
Peter Corbett
Director

Student Life
Michelle Rogers
Director

Schools

School of Arts and Humanities
Professor Matthew Allen
Executive Dean

School of Business and Law
Professor Maryam Omari
Executive Dean

School of Education
Professor Caroline Mansfield
Executive Dean

School of Engineering
Professor Daryoush Habibi
Executive Dean

**Deputy Vice-Chancellor
(Research)**
Professor Caroline Finch AO

**Graduate Research
Services**
Professor Chris Abbiss
Dean

Research Services
Professor Margaret Jones
Director

**Deputy Vice-Chancellor
(Regional Futures)**
Professor Cobie Rudd

ECU South West

**Vice-President
(Corporate Services)**
Scott Henderson

**Finance and Business
Services Centre**
Brad Francis
Chief Financial Officer

**University Project
Management Office**
Cindy Slayford
Manager

**Vice-President
(Engagement)**
Sonia Mackay-Coghill

**Brand and Marketing
and Business Growth
and Development**
Julia Turner
Director

**Office of Development
and Alumni Relations**
Susan Schofield
Acting Director

**School of Medical and
Health Sciences**
Professor Moira Sim
Executive Dean

**School of Nursing
and Midwifery**
Professor Karen Strickland
Executive Dean

School of Science
Professor Andrew
Woodward
Executive Dean

**Western Australian
Academy of Performing
Arts (WAAPA)**
Professor David Shirley
Executive Dean

GOAL 1

DELIVERING AN EXCEPTIONAL STUDENT EXPERIENCE FOR SUCCESS IN WORK & LIFE

Strategic Priorities:

- Personalised learning and study support
- Quality and consistency across all modes and locations of study
- Graduates empowered to succeed
- Promoting equity, diversity and excellence
- Success for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students.

ECU achieved outstanding ratings in the latest QILT Student Experience Survey and was again the top ranked public university in Australia for overall experience, skills development and student support. ECU also remains the top university in WA for undergraduate overall experience, teaching quality, student support and learning resources, and is equal first for skills development.

In the most recent QILT Graduate Outcomes Survey, ECU achieved an employment rate of 88.0 per cent for domestic undergraduate employment – only slightly below the State (89.1 per cent) and national (88.6 per cent) averages. The 2022 survey result was the sixth highest improvement in the sector.

ECU achieved 5-star ratings for undergraduate teaching quality for the 17th consecutive year in the Good Universities Guide (GUG) for 2024, and, for postgraduate study, was the number one university in Australia for learning resources. In GUG's discipline rankings,

ECU achieved the best in Australia for overall undergraduate student experience in Computing and Information Systems, as well as for learning resources and skills development in Education and Training. ECU secured multiple best in Australia rankings at postgraduate level, most notably in Psychology for overall experience, teaching quality, skills development, and student support.

ECU received four Australian Award for University Teaching (AAUT) honours in 2023.

The recipients were:

Dr Stephanie Godrich (industry-engaged learning and authentic assessment in regional health science); Dr Jemma Berry (developing authentic, next generation curricula in forensic science); Dr Stacey Reinke (innovative, research-led approaches to improve data literacy in biology); and Dr Fiona Foxall (evidence informed, collaborative whole-of School leadership that improved learning outcomes in nursing).

In February 2023, ECU received \$1.4 million for the 2023 round of Commonwealth Destination Australia Scholarships and, in December 2023, a further \$775,500 was received for the 2024 round. These Destination Australia Scholarships will support to support 42 students at the ECU South West Campus. This was the highest number of scholarships awarded to education providers in WA across the two rounds.

In 2023, ECU established an Artificial Intelligence Steering Committee, which developed a framework to enable ECU staff and students to engage in the productive and ethical use of Artificial Intelligence in teaching, research and service delivery.

ECU's Employability Project launched six Canvas modules to support institution-wide, in-curriculum approaches to developing students career development learning, which is key to improving employment outcomes. The modules were piloted in fifteen units across ECU in Semester Two.

ECU was awarded three Accessibility in Action Awards through the Australian Disability Clearinghouse on Education and Training (ADCET) for projects titled: Enhancing Digital Accessibility Student Partnerships; ECU Campus Sensory Spaces; and Lived Experience Led Work.

ECU's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander undergraduate success rates are above both WA and national averages and, for undergraduate and postgraduate coursework combined, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students have shown improved success (up 3 percentage points), retention (up 2 percentage points) and 4-year completion rates (up 10 percentage points).

GOAL 2

UNDERTAKING IMPACTFUL WORLD-CLASS RESEARCH

Strategic Priorities:

- Focused, world-class research
- A strong research culture
- Highly valued higher degree by research graduates
- Partnerships for research.

ECU's research is, on average, cited more than Australia's total publications. ECU's field weighted citation impact (FWCI) increased from 1.70 in 2022 to 1.72 in 2023, well above the overall Australian FWCI score, which remained unchanged at 1.60. ECU also increased the efficiency of its research output, with research publications per 10 staff FTE increasing from 35.62 in 2021 to 42.83 in 2022, exceeding the national average (40.48 in 2022) for the first time.

In 2023, ECU's high-quality research performance was acknowledged through numerous awards and prizes. Dr Naomi Godden was awarded an Australian Research Council Discovery Early Career Research Award of \$477,162 over three years to explore how a just transition to net zero emissions can support First Nations peoples' self-determination. Professor Loretta Baldassar and Associate Professor Josh Lewis were awarded National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) Medical Research Future Fund grants of \$1.4M and \$1.2M, respectively, to address a critical need to support migrants with dementia and their families,

and to investigate abdominal aortic calcification as a reliable risk marker for cardiovascular disease. In addition, Dr Natalie Strobel and Professor Dan McAullay were awarded \$974k under the NHMRC Ideas Grant Scheme to help boost HPV vaccination among Aboriginal youth.

Professor Lisa Whitehead was awarded the State's most prestigious nursing honour, named Nurse/Midwife of the Year at the Department of Health's annual WA Nursing and Midwifery Excellence Awards. Dr Luke Hopper (Drama and Theatre Arts), Professor Stefan Iglauer (Dispersion Chemistry) and Professor Helge Janicke (Computer Security and Cryptography) were recognised by the Australian 2024 Research Magazine as Australia's leading researchers in their respective fields.

ECU's Higher Degree by Research (HDR) candidates continued to receive quality training and supervision towards completion, with HDR completions per 10 FTE rising sharply from 2.21 in 2021 to 3.27 in 2022. Several initiatives developed in 2023 enhanced and will continue to enhance the quality of research training at ECU. HDR candidate stipends were increased to \$33,000 per year to alleviate some of the cost-of-living pressures affecting HDR candidates. Project based HDR scholarships and revised HDR milestones will be implemented in 2024 to enhance support for HDR candidates.

ECU strives to focus its research effort to build scale in nationally significant areas of research excellence. In 2023, two ECU Strategic Research Centres, the Centre for Precision Health and the Centre for People, Place and Planet, were renewed funding for a further four years until 2027. ECU built scale in its existing research strengths through recruitment of 11 outstanding early to mid-career researchers in the Vice-Chancellor's Research Fellowship Scheme.

ECU continued to build partnerships with government, community and industry organisations to deliver impactful research. Enhanced leadership of ECU's research partnerships, and increased support from research engagement facilitators, enabled researchers to drive partnerships with end-users. Category 2-4 grants awarded increased by almost 20 per cent between 2022 and 2023.

ECU strives to build a research culture in which academics are supported to realise their research ambitions. The Early to Mid-Career Researcher Scheme provided support for researchers to conduct pilot projects to build their success in subsequent external funding applications. A research impact officer has continued to build ECU's culture of conducting research with impact, and a Research Evidence Impact Scheme supported ECU researchers to better document the impact of their research.

GOAL 3

LEADING THE SECTOR IN INTERNATIONALISATION

Strategic Priorities:

- International recovery and growth
- Global relationships
- Strengthening offshore delivery
- International partnerships for research students
- An internationalised student experience.

A surge in post-pandemic demand resulted in over 4,600 international students commencing their studies onshore at ECU in 2023, exceeding internal targets for fee-paying onshore commencing student load. ECU continued to successfully expand its global presence as offshore student enrolments increased at ECU's Transnational Education partner locations in Sri Lanka, China, Vietnam and Singapore. ECU's 2023 fee-paying offshore load target was also significantly exceeded.

ECU maintained its strong focus on quality and diversity through its offshore-led agent management strategy and by diversifying its source markets. In 2023, ECU enrolled international students from over 70 countries, including emerging source markets, such as Latin America. The top-performing markets in 2023 included India, Bhutan, Kenya, China and Sri Lanka.

In August, ECU officially inaugurated its new campus in Colombo, Sri Lanka. The event was attended by numerous dignitaries, including the Prime Minister of Sri Lanka and the Australian High Commissioner. This campus is the first international university-managed branch campus in Sri Lanka and offers world-class facilities, including laboratories, computer facilities, a digital hub, library and informal student spaces, with capacity for up to 2,500 students. Unlike other foreign university offerings in Sri Lanka, ECU's campus offers full three-year degree programs in a range of disciplines through a distinctive, ECU student experience.

ECU continued to expand its unique program offerings in student mobility and internationalisation experiences. Dual degree programs with the University of Portsmouth entered their third year, with the number of programs expanding to six, and over 270 students enrolled with the universities. The Tokyo City University Australia Program for study abroad welcomed 185 Japanese students to ECU in 2023.

Over the last three years, ECU has secured over \$2.5 million in New Colombo Plan (NCP) Australian Government funding to support students' studies in the Indo-Pacific region. In 2023, 500 ECU students achieved a NCP-funded international study experience, and two ECU students were selected as 2023 NCP Scholars to visit South Korea and Singapore in 2024.

ECU continued to innovate its international partner engagement strategies, with initiatives such as ECU UNLOCKED (an agent familiarisation and training scheme welcoming ECU's global partners from 30 countries), the Latin America Regional Agent Conference (August), the Building Bhutan's Future Ready Workforce Conference in Thimphu (September) and the New Dawn – ECU Global Agent Directors' Summit (October). In recognition of ECU UNLOCKED, the University won the 2023 WA Export Award for Education and Training presented by the State Government and is a national finalist in the International Education and Training category of the 61st Australian Export Awards.

GOAL 4

EMPOWERING THE TALENT
AND POTENTIAL OF OUR STAFF**Strategic Priorities:**

- A workforce ready for the future
- Establish a contemporary approach to academic careers
- A workforce that reflects our communities
- Transformation, resilience, and excellence.

ECU's People and Culture Supporting Plan 2023-2026 was finalised in 2023, with six key strategic pillars: Talent acquisition and management; Building leadership and capability; Fostering equity, diversity, inclusion and belonging; Promoting and supporting the health and wellbeing of staff; Contemporary processes and technologies; and Organisational identity (employee value proposition).

Two new frameworks were established: a Strategic Workforce Framework to develop and strengthen ECU's workforce; and an Academic Careers Framework to support and enhance academic roles, leadership, workloads and promotions.

The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander talent pool resulted in five new staff appointments in 2023, although there is a projected decline in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander staff representation to 2.0 per cent of total staff.

ECU's gender pay gap (GPG) narrowed further in 2023, to 13.5 per cent, down from 14.5 per cent in 2022.

Key factors contributing to this improvement included: increased female participation at senior academic levels; and increased male participation at lower salary levels in both academic and professional staff roles.

Recognising ECU's ongoing commitment to gender equity, in 2023 the University was awarded the remaining four Science in Australia Gender Equity (SAGE) Cygnet Awards for outstanding efforts to deliver gender-equal opportunities and outcomes, particularly for women in Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics and Medicine disciplines. ECU is the first institution in WA to receive all five SAGE Cygnet Awards.



GOAL 5

SECURING OUR FUTURE

Strategic Priorities:

- Towards the University of the Future
- Course renewal and rationalisation
- Strong regional communities
- Social change imperatives
- Financial sustainability.

ECU again achieved a top 400 ranking in the Times Higher Education (THE) World University Rankings 2023 and, in the THE Young World University Rankings 2023, ECU achieved a rank of 83, up from 94 in the previous year. In addition, ECU ranked sixth out of 40 Australian universities in the Australian Financial Review's inaugural Best University Ranking.

The ECU City project advanced into the construction phase in 2023. Key achievements included ECU Council's consideration of a transition plan, schedule and sequencing options for the City Campus, the establishment of pilot spaces for technology experimentation and training, and a comprehensive evaluation of baseline technologies. Planning for transition is now well underway through the development of a comprehensive masterplan for the operationalisation of the City Campus and the decanting of the Mount Lawley Campus.

The University embarked on a curriculum transformation plan comprising four key initiatives: Curriculum and assessment restructure and redesign towards programmatic approaches; enhancing teaching practice to adopt 'active learning at scale', leveraging new physical and digital infrastructure across all campuses; implementation of new learning modes; and transitioning to a trimester academic calendar.

ECU secured an initial \$17 million in Commonwealth funding for the University Department of Rural Health South West, established in 2023. This funding, allocated until December 2024 with expected recurrent funding beyond 2024, will support over 400 additional clinical placements in the South West Region of WA.

Strategic partnerships through ECU South West provided additional funding and in-kind support to the University, while expanding industry and community engagements, activating the Bunbury Campus and creating pathways for students to enrol at ECU. Service level agreements with the Pilbara Kimberley University Centre and Great Southern Regional University Centre continued to provide support for regional online students in 2023.

In September 2023, the new ECU Learning Centre Busselton was officially launched by the Hon. Fiona Nash and Minister for Regional Development; Disability Services; Fisheries; Seniors and Ageing; Volunteering,

Hon. Don Punch MLA. The ECU Learning Centre Busselton provides regional online students with greater support for their study, along with a physical location to learn, socialise and engage with learning advisers.

With funding from the City of Bunbury, ECU South West established the Western Australian Academy of Performing Arts (WAPPA) Performance Innovation Fund, which will enable WAAPA students and staff to deliver short courses, workshops and performances in the Busselton CBD.

ECU secured \$1.2 million over four years to establish the WA Creative Tech Innovation Hub headquartered in Bunbury, with an additional \$120,000 in cash and \$750,000 in-kind support from external agencies.

ECU's total operating income for 2023 is expected to be \$576 million, generating an operating surplus of \$62 million (10.8 per cent). All Council financial targets for revenue and operating margin are forecast to be exceeded for 2023.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES AND TRENDS

The year 2023 presented a challenging economic landscape, characterised by global instability and stringent monetary policies, designed to control inflation. These conditions will continue to impact on Australian Government decisions on public spending, including for higher education. The Commonwealth Budget 2023-24 had a distinct focus on austerity, pointing to sustained budget constraints throughout 2024 and forward estimates.

The Australian Universities Accord Review promises to deliver a generational shift for the tertiary education sector. Early recommendations in the Accord's Interim Report prompted legislative changes that included funding for additional Regional and Suburban University Study Hubs, the removal of the 50 percent pass rule, coupled with the introduction of Support for Students Guidelines, and the extension of the Higher Education Continuity Guarantee, with additional requirements for universities to direct surplus funds to additional support for underrepresented student groups.

The release of the Accord's Final Report in early 2024, is likely to be followed by additional legislative reforms and changes to the university landscape, including the possibility of a Tertiary Education Commission and the introduction of a levy on international student revenue. Consultations are already underway on the responsibilities of a new National Student Ombudsman and to determine obligations under an action plan to end gender-based violence at universities. Those measures already enacted, and those proposed, are likely to increase regulatory oversight and administrative burdens for universities.

Within Western Australia, the University Sector Review's focus on structural change for the State's public universities has created uncertainty and distraction. In the short-term, local economic and social conditions, such as high workforce participation, rising living costs, declining ATAR participation and subsidised TAFE courses, will continue to negatively impact domestic student demand for higher education.

While nationally, international student enrolments have largely rebounded to pre-pandemic levels, competition from other destination countries will continue to be challenging. Demand on Australia's visa system will continue to impact international education, following temporary changes in working rights, and the extension of post-study work rights for international graduates in skill demand disciplines. Modifications to the visa system, in response to Australian Government reviews in 2023, may affect international student demand in 2024 and beyond.

The removal of the Excellence in Research Australia and Engagement and Impact assessments in 2023 eased compliance requirements, although the Australian Government is likely to continue its scrutiny of university research activity and international research partnerships, as part of ongoing concerns around foreign interference and national security breaches.

Universities will continue to be faced with the challenges of managing cybersecurity threats and responding to developments in generative artificial intelligence, which are expected to result in significant disruption to teaching, learning and assessment practices.



ACADEMIC FREEDOM

Refer: Model Code for the Protection of Freedom of Speech and Academic Freedom in Australian Higher Education Providers

ECU's commitment to promoting and protecting academic freedom and freedom of speech is provided in its Statement on Academic Freedom and Freedom of Speech. No issues of concern related to academic freedom were reported to the ECU Council in 2023.

ECU student responses	Agreement (%)
I am free to express my views	78
Academics are free to express their views	78
I am free from discrimination, harm, and hatred	84

Source: Student Experience Survey 2022, including both postgraduate and undergraduate students. Scores represent the proportion of respondents who agreed or strongly agreed with the item.

ECU staff responses	Agreement (%)
ECU genuinely supports the principle of academic freedom	74
Discrimination is not tolerated at ECU	87

Source: ECU 2022 Staff Engagement Survey, conducted by Voice Project. Scores represent the proportion of respondents who agreed or strongly agreed with the item.

ADVERTISING AND MARKETING ACTIVITIES

Refer: Electoral Act 1907, 175ZE

Type	Total
Advertising agencies	\$3,087,009
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 303 Mullenlowe Australia Pty Ltd 72andSunny Pty Ltd Rare Pty Ltd 	
Market research organisations	\$151,000
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pollinate 	Full year
Media advertising organisations	\$3,667,401
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mediabrand Australia Pty Ltd Optimum Media Decisions (WA) Pty Ltd Sportseen LLP Unijobs Global Pty Ltd Hearts and Science Pty Ltd 	
TOTAL	\$6,905,411





ASBESTOS AWARENESS AND MANAGEMENT

Refer: *Annual Reporting of Public Sector Health, Safety and Injury Management Performance, and NSPAAM Progress*

ECU has individual Asbestos Registers for each campus, which provide an accurate and up-to-date understanding of all spaces where asbestos may be present. Independent inspections of each campus, including some leased buildings, are completed by approved and accredited occupational hygienists on a regular basis.

ECU's maintenance service provider has undertaken asbestos awareness training for all their employees, and the University has included asbestos awareness in its online work health and safety staff induction training.

In addition to the University's Asbestos Registers, ECU has its own *Asbestos Management Guideline*, which outlines the appropriate management of asbestos. The guideline was developed in 2022 in accordance with the *Model Code of Practice: How to Manage and Control Asbestos in the Workplace* (2020, Safe Work Australia). The guideline is reviewed every three years, or as required, such as when occurrences of asbestos and asbestos-containing material have been remediated, removed or disturbed.

The purpose of the guideline is to ensure effective management to:

- Prevent exposure to airborne asbestos fibres
- Control potential exposure of maintenance workers
- Highlight the need for action to maintain or remove asbestos and asbestos-containing materials
- Raise awareness among all employees
- Maintain the accuracy of the Asbestos Registers.

BOARD AND COMMITTEE REMUNERATION

Refer: Annual Report Guidelines 2022-23: Additional Reporting Requirements – Board and Committee Remuneration

Position	Name	Remuneration type	Period of membership	Term	Remuneration amount (\$)
Council Member	Muhammad Faizan Akram	Annual	2m 21d	11 Oct-31 Dec	0
Council Member	Professor Steve Chapman CBE	No entitlement	12m	1 Jan-31 Dec	0
Council Member	Elsa Chew	Annual	9m 10d	1 Jan-10 Oct	\$2,897
Committee Member	The Hon Philip Eaton	Ineligible	12m	1 Jan-31 Dec	0
Chancellor	Denise Goldsworthy AO	Annual	12m	1 Jan-31 Dec	\$60,000
Committee Member	Tanvi Haria	Annual	12m	1 Jan-31 Dec	0
Committee Member	Stewart Hart	Annual	12m	1 Jan-31 Dec	0
Committee Member	Nadine Highfield	Annual	12m	1 Jan-31 Dec	\$7,500
Committee Member	Jason Hughes	Annual	12m	1 Jan-31 Dec	\$7,500
Committee Member	Daniel Jackson	Annual	12m	1 Jan-31 Dec	\$7,500
Committee Member	Caroline James	Annual	12m	1 Jan-31 Dec	0
Committee Member	Ross Johnstone	Annual	12m	1 Jan-31 Dec	\$7,500
Committee Member	Edward Kalajzic	Annual	6m 10d	1 Jan-10 Jul	0
Council Member; Committee Member	Dr Susan King	Annual	12m	1 Jan-31 Dec	0
Committee Member	Peter McCafferty	Ineligible	12m	1 Jan-31 Dec	0
Council Member; Committee Chair	Gaye McMath	Annual	12m	1 Jan-31 Dec	\$22,500
Committee Member	Claire Negus	Annual	12m	1 Jan-31 Dec	0
Council Member	Associate Professor Madeleine Ogilvie	No entitlement	12m	1 Jan-31 Dec	0
Council Member; Committee Member	Monish Paul	Annual	12m	1 Jan-31 Dec	\$15,000
Committee Member	Jenni Perkins	Annual	12m	1 Jan-31 Dec	\$7,500
Committee Member	Robyn Quin	Annual	12m	1 Jan-31 Dec	\$7,500
Deputy Chancellor	Robert Radley	Annual	12m	1 Jan-31 Dec	\$30,000
Committee Member	Kelly Reynolds	Annual	2m 1d	1 Jan-1 Mar	\$1,233
Council Member; Committee Member	Kelly Reynolds	Annual	9m 30d	2 Mar-31 Dec	\$12,534

Position	Name	Remuneration type	Period of membership	Term	Remuneration amount (\$)
Council Member	Sarah Rizwan	Annual	12m	1 Jan-31 Dec	\$3,750
Council Member; Committee Member	Michael Rundus	Annual	12m	1 Jan-31 Dec	\$15,000
Committee Member	Kirsten Seneviratne	Ineligible	12m	1 Jan-31 Dec	0
Committee Member	Diane Sinagra	Annual	12m	1 Jan-31 Dec	\$7,500
Council Member	Professor Craig Speelman	No entitlement	12m	1 Jan-31 Dec	0
Council Member; Committee Member	Pia Turcinov	Annual	12m	1 Jan-31 Dec	\$15,000
Council Member; Committee Chair	Elizabeth Tylich	Annual	12m	1 Jan-31 Dec	0
Committee Member	David Wall	Annual	12m	1 Jan-31 Dec	\$7,500
Council Member	Colin Watson	No entitlement	12m	1 Jan-31 Dec	0
Council Member	Dr Darren Webb	Annual	12m	1 Jan-31 Dec	\$7,500
Council Member; Committee Member	Gningala Yarran-Mark	Annual	12m	1 Jan-31 Dec	\$15,000
Committee Member	Heather Zampatti	Annual	12m	1 Jan-31 Dec	\$7,500

Note: Term and period refer to the reporting period, not a member's entire tenure on Council or its committees. Remuneration payments are voluntary, and members may donate their sacrificed remuneration to the ECU Foundation. 'No entitlement' means the position is specifically for ECU staff (i.e., Vice-Chancellor, Chair of Academic Board, or elected staff representatives), and University employees are not entitled to remuneration for ECU board or committee membership. 'Ineligible' means that the position is entitled to receive remuneration, but the individual appointed is not (e.g., full-time government employee, Member of Parliament, etc.).





DISABILITY ACCESS AND INCLUSION PLAN

Refer: *Disability Services Act 1993, 29(1); Disability Services Regulations 2004, Schedule 3*

In November, ECU received its latest Access and Inclusion Index report from the Australian Network on Disability. The Access and Inclusion Index measures an organisation's progress and identifies opportunities to build disability confidence. ECU received an overall score of 32 per cent, nine percentage points higher than the 2020 assessment. The University's best performing areas were Customer Experience, Commitment, and Communication and Marketing.

1 General services and events: The University continues its efforts to ensure events are accessible to all potential attendees. All event communications now include information about the access features of the venue, and images. In July, ECU celebrated Disability Pride Month for the first time, with Disability Pride flag-raising ceremonies, speeches, educational seminars, pop-up exhibits, and a Disability Pride Film Fest featuring short films made by students with disability. ECU held its annual event to honour International Day of People with Disability in November 2023, which celebrated the launch of ECU's Disability Ally Network.

2 Buildings and facilities: ECU completed its ECU Campus Sensory Spaces project for Semester 1, with a new Sensory Space available on each Australian campus. Students with lived experience of sensory needs were included in planning. ECU's Sensory Spaces offer noise cancelling headphones, sensory kits, calm cards, booklets and information packs, and other features. The Sensory Spaces contain three zones to meet different needs: the Calm Zone (to help students regulate and relax in a darker setting), the Connection Zone (which provides information on support services and events), and the Community Zone (a space designed for multiple people with a range of activities).



- 3 Information and communication:** In November, ECU launched Brand Hub, a centralised digital asset management system for staff, which includes a section on accessibility in communications. Brand Hub also provides templates for staff that meet accessibility requirements. ECU now offers individual consultations for students to explore assistive technologies that may support their studies.
- 4 Quality of service:** Commencing in 2021 and concluding in 2023, ECU transitioned to Canvas, a new learning management system for students. Accessibility was prioritised through the transition and compliance with accessibility improved. Several new microcredentials are now available for staff to support inclusive practices in teaching and learning. The ECU Inclusive Education Learning Community facilitated sessions on universal design for learning, digital accessibility and neurodiversity in the classroom. ECU's new Neurodivergent Teams Channel is an online platform that offers peer connection for students to share experiences and solutions, develop and access resources, and coordinate study groups, supported by a peer mentoring program.
- 5 Complaints:** ECU continues to ensure its complaints process is accessible, with a specific web page to assist with complaints related to equity and diversity.
- 6 Consultation:** ECU's largest current project is the ECU City program. The City Campus Equity and Access Group and the student consultation group provide regular feedback to shape the design and operations of the City Campus. ECU consulted with Design for Dignity regarding its library shelving and is using the Design for Dignity Guidelines and Autism Friendly University Design Guide to support decision-making. As detailed in Outcome 2, students were involved in the design and implementation of the University's new Sensory Spaces. ECU's Staff With Disability Network will launch in 2024, providing another formal consultation mechanism.
- 7 Employment:** The new *People and Culture Plan* includes specific strategic priorities for fostering equity, diversity, inclusion and belonging for staff, and for promoting and supporting staff health and wellbeing.

INSURANCE PAID TO INDEMNIFY DIRECTORS

Refer: Treasurer's Instruction 903, (14)(iv)

ECU paid a premium of **\$259,675** for directors and officers liability insurance in 2023.

MAJOR CAPITAL PROJECTS

Refer: Treasurer's Instruction 903, (13)(ii)

Completed

Major ongoing projects are shown in the table below. ECU has no completed major capital projects to report in 2023.

In progress

Project	Expected completion	Estimated cost (\$M)	Cost to-date (\$M)
ECU City Campus	2025	844.0	228.4
ECU Health Centre, Yanchep	2026	20.8	8.2
Replacement of External Building Façade Panels (ECU Health Centre, Wanneroo; Building 1, Mount Lawley; Building 1, Joondalup Campus)	2024	6.4	3.4
ECU Busselton Learning Centre	2024	0.5	0.4





OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY

Refer: Annual Reporting of Public Sector Health, Safety and Injury Management Performance, and NSPAAM Progress

ECU's *Work, Health, Safety and Wellbeing Plan 2023-2026* outlines the University's commitment to providing a healthy and safe working and learning environment for staff, students, contractors, volunteers and visitors. The plan also reflects ECU's commitment to maturing our Work Health and Safety (WHS) management system through continuous improvement, including moving beyond legal compliance to WHS best practice.

As detailed in ECU's WHS policy, members of the University's Council and Senior Executives are responsible for exercising due diligence to ensure compliance with all health and safety statutory requirements. Support is provided by ECU's and local WHS Committees through oversight and consultative processes.

ECU complies with the Workers' Compensation and Injury Management Act 1981, including return to work arrangements. In 2022, the University's WHS management system was assessed by an external consultant against key changes to the WHS legislation and AS/NZS ISO 45001:2018 Occupational Health and Safety Management Systems. A continual improvement plan was implemented following this assessment. The next external review will be in 2025.

Measure	2021	2022	2023	Target	Comment
Fatalities	0	0	0	0	Achieved
Lost time incidence rate	0.41	0.38	0.55	0, or 10% reduction	Not Achieved
Lost time severity rate	0	28.57	9.09	0, or 10% reduction	Achieved
Returned to work within:					
13 weeks (%)	75	57.14	81.81	At least 80% within 26 weeks	Achieved
26 weeks (%)	100	85.71	90.90		
Managers trained (%)	79	86.7	80.2	≥ 80%	Achieved

PRICING POLICIES

Refer: *Treasurer's Instruction 903, (13)(i)*

ECU's pricing policies are set out in *University Statute 31 – Fees, University Statute 29 – Student Services and Amenities Fee, the Tuition Unit and Incidental Fee Setting policy, and the Pricing policy.*

SHARES HELD BY SENIOR OFFICERS

Refer: *Treasurer's Instruction 903, (14)(i)–(ii)*

ECU has nothing to report for this item.

RECORD KEEPING PLANS

Refer: *State Records Act 2000, 29(1); State Records Commission Standard 2*

At the close of 2022, ECU submitted a modified plan for record-keeping, which outlines a fresh and dynamic approach to ECU's information management practices, marking a significant departure from traditional methods. The shift in methodology adopts a more contemporary approach to information management and productivity to enhance overall compliance. This progressive approach is already showing value, with the State Records Commission approving the record keeping plan in early 2023 and encouraging ECU's efforts.

Concurrently, ECU is in the process of creating and delivering additional modules for information management awareness, which will complement existing training. In 2023, Information Management Awareness Training was completed by 251 ECU staff and an additional 109 staff have completed the training as of February 2024.

RISK MANAGEMENT

Refer: *Voluntary Code of Best Practice for the Governance of Australian Universities 2018, (11)*

ECU's *Integrated Risk Management* policy provides a risk management framework for the University's activities. The Integrated Risk Management Framework maps risks to ECU's strategic priorities, and is the basis for all risk registers, including the ECU Strategic Risk Register. The Vice-Chancellor is responsible for ensuring that the risk management system is maintained as per the policy, and the Quality, Audit and Risk Committee provides oversight.

STAFFING POLICIES AND EMPLOYEES

Refer: *Treasurer's Instruction 903, (13)(iii)*

ECU has a comprehensive suite of staffing policies relating to recruitment, staff development, industrial relations, workers' compensation claims, prevention of occupational injuries and illnesses, and rehabilitation of injured and sick employees. These policies are underpinned by the *ECU Enterprise Agreement 2017*.

Category	2022	2023
Academic	719	822
Professional	1,113	1,187
Teaching and research	310	344
Research only	102	106
Teaching focused	351	370
Other	1,109	1,189
TOTAL	1,872	2,009

Note: Full-time equivalent (FTE) numbers shown. 2023 FTE includes an estimate of casual staff. 2022 FTE includes exact figures for casual staff; hence 2022 figures differ from last year's report. Due to rounding, numbers may not sum to totals.

STUDENT REPRESENTATION AND ADVOCACY

Refer: *Higher Education Support Act 2003, (19-67); Higher Education Support (Student Services, Amenities, Representation and Advocacy Guidelines) 2022, (12 to 19)*

ECU maintains an effective student consultation process, which is considered and approved by Council on an annual basis. Student consultation is centred around the Vice-Chancellor's Student Advisory Forum, which meets quarterly each year to discuss topics relating to improving the experiences and outcomes of students.

The University and the Student Guild also meet annually to agree on the allocation of funding from the Student Services and Amenities Fee (SSAF) to student support services, including pastoral care, career services, and sport and recreational activities. Prior to this meeting, draft priorities for the expenditure of SSAF income are published on the student intranet and ECU Student Guild platforms for feedback and information sharing. Student feedback is also collected via the biennial Student Services and Facilities Survey.

Student representation regarding matters of University governance is provided through membership of the ECU Council, as required under the *Edith Cowan University Act 1984*. Additionally, student engagement in decision-making occurs through membership of:

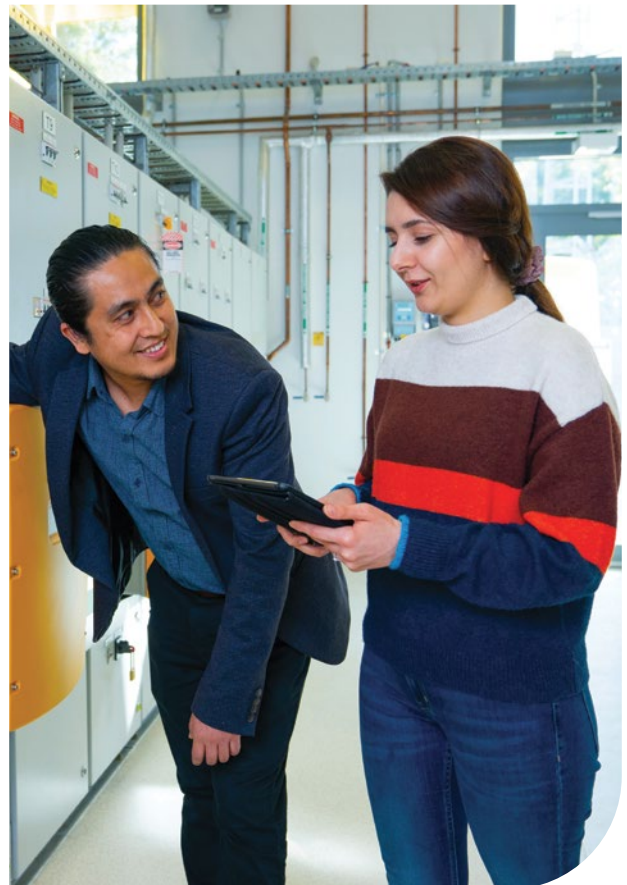
- Academic Board
- Education Committee
- Research and Higher Degrees Committee
- Equity and Diversity Committee
- Advisory Board of the Western Australian Academy of Performing Arts
- ECU South West Campus (Bunbury) Advisory Board
- Other boards and committees at school or course level.

UNIVERSITY CHANCELLORS COUNCIL VOLUNTARY CODES OF PRACTICE

Refer: *Voluntary Australian Universities Vice-Chancellor and Senior Staff Remuneration Code 2021; Voluntary Code of Best Practice for the Governance of Australian Universities 2018, (14)*

ECU, where practicable, complies with the University Chancellors Council's Voluntary Code of Best Practice for the *Governance of Australian Universities*.

ECU has adopted, in principle, the *Voluntary Australian Universities Vice-Chancellor and Senior Staff Remuneration Code*. The Council Remuneration Committee has been tasked with developing appropriate implementation measures. The University's *Vice-Chancellor Performance Management and Remuneration Review* policy and the associated guidelines are broadly aligned to the Code.





Auditor General

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

2023

Edith Cowan University

To the Parliament of Western Australia

Report on the audit of the financial statements

Opinion

I have audited the financial statements of Edith Cowan University (university) and its controlled entities (the Group) which comprise:

- the consolidated statement of financial position as at 31 December 2023, the consolidated income statement, the consolidated statement of comprehensive income, the consolidated statement of changes in equity, and the consolidated statement of cash flows for the year then ended
- Notes comprising a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information.

In my opinion, the financial statements of the Group are:

- based on proper accounts and present fairly, in all material respects, the operating results and cash flows of Edith Cowan University/ the Group for the year ended 31 December 2023 and the financial position at the end of that period
- in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards, the *Financial Management Act 2006* and relevant Treasurer's Instructions, Division 60 of the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012* (ACNC Act) and the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Regulations 2022 (ACNC Regulation).

Basis for opinion

I conducted my audit in accordance with the Australian Auditing Standards. My responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of my report.

I believe that the audit evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion.

Emphasis of matter – Accrued income

I draw attention to Note 13 of the financial statements which describes the judgements made by the Group in the recognition of franking credits receivable on the fully franked in specie dividend of IDP Education Limited shares as part of the wind up of the University's investment in Education Australia Limited. My opinion is not modified in respect of this matter.

Responsibilities of the University Council for the financial statements

The University Council is responsible for:

- keeping proper accounts
- preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards, the *Financial Management Act 2006* and relevant Treasurer's Instructions, the ACNC Act and the ACNC Regulations
- such internal control as the University Council determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the University Council is responsible for:

- assessing the entity's ability to continue as a going concern
- disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern
- using the going concern basis of accounting unless government funding affects the continued existence of the university.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

As required by the *Auditor General Act 2006*, my responsibility is to express an opinion on the financial statements. The objectives of my audit are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes my opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists.

Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of the financial statements. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations or the override of internal control.

A further description of my responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the Auditing and Assurance Standards Board website. This description forms part of my auditor's report and can be found at https://www.auasb.gov.au/auditors_responsibilities/ar3.pdf.

Report on the audit of controls

Opinion

I have undertaken a reasonable assurance engagement on the design and implementation of controls exercised by Edith Cowan University. The controls exercised by the University are those policies and procedures established by the University Council to ensure that the receipt, expenditure and investment of money, the acquisition and disposal of property, and the incurring of liabilities have been in accordance with the State's financial reporting framework (the overall control objectives).

In my opinion, in all material respects, the controls exercised by Edith Cowan University are sufficiently adequate to provide reasonable assurance that the receipt, expenditure and investment of money, the acquisition and disposal of property and the incurring of liabilities have been in accordance with the State's financial reporting framework during the year ended 31 December 2023.

The University Council's responsibilities

The University Council is responsible for designing, implementing and maintaining controls to ensure that the receipt, expenditure and investment of money, the acquisition and disposal of property, and the incurring of liabilities are in accordance with the *Financial Management Act 2006*, relevant Treasurer's Instructions and other relevant written law.

Auditor General's responsibilities

As required by the *Auditor General Act 2006*, my responsibility as an assurance practitioner is to express an opinion on the suitability of the design of the controls to achieve the overall control objectives, and the implementation of the controls as designed. I conducted my engagement in accordance with Standard on Assurance Engagements ASAE 3150 *Assurance Engagements on Controls* issued by the Australian Auditing and Assurance Standards Board. That standard requires that I comply with relevant ethical requirements and plan and perform my procedures to obtain reasonable assurance about whether, in all material respects, the controls are suitably designed to achieve the overall control objectives and the controls, necessary to achieve the overall control objectives were implemented as designed.

An assurance engagement involves performing procedures to obtain evidence about the suitability of the design of controls to achieve the overall control objectives, and the implementation of those controls. The procedures selected depend on my judgement, including the assessment of the risks that controls are not suitably designed or implemented as designed. My procedures included testing the implementation of those controls that I consider necessary to achieve the overall control objectives.

I believe that the evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion.

Limitations of controls

Because of the inherent limitations of any internal control structure, it is possible that, even if the controls are suitably designed and implemented as designed, once in operation, the overall control objectives may not be achieved so that fraud, error, or non-compliance with laws and regulations may occur and not be detected. Any projection of the outcome of the evaluation of the suitability of

the design of controls to future periods is subject to the risk that the controls may become unsuitable because of changes in conditions.

Report on the audit of the key performance indicators

Opinion

I have undertaken a reasonable assurance engagement on the key performance indicators of Edith Cowan University for the year ended 31 December 2023. The key performance indicators are the key effectiveness indicators and the key efficiency indicators that provide performance information about achieving outcomes and delivering services.

In my opinion, in all material respects, the key performance indicators of Edith Cowan University are relevant and appropriate to assist users to assess the University's performance and fairly represent indicated performance for the year ended 31 December 2023.

The University Council's responsibilities for the key performance indicators

The University Council is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the key performance indicators in accordance with the *Financial Management Act 2006* and the Treasurer's Instructions, and for such internal control as University Council determines necessary to enable the preparation of key performance indicators that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the key performance indicators, the University Council is responsible for identifying key performance indicators that are relevant and appropriate having regard to their purpose in accordance with Treasurer's Instruction 904U *Key Performance Indicators*.

Auditor General's responsibilities

As required by the *Auditor General Act 2006*, my responsibility as an assurance practitioner is to express an opinion on the key performance indicators. The objectives of my engagement are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the key performance indicators are relevant and appropriate to assist users to assess the University's performance, and whether the key performance indicators are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes my opinion. I conducted my engagement in accordance with Standard on Assurance Engagements ASAE 3000 *Assurance Engagements Other than Audits or Reviews of Historical Financial Information* issued by the Australian Auditing and Assurance Standards Board. That standard requires that I comply with relevant ethical requirements relating to assurance engagements.

An assurance engagement involves performing procedures to obtain evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the key performance indicators. It also involves evaluating the relevance and appropriateness of the key performance indicators against the criteria and guidance in Treasurer's Instruction 904U for measuring the extent of outcome achievement and the efficiency of service delivery. The procedures selected depend on my judgement, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the key performance indicators. In making these risk assessments I

obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the engagement in order to design procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances.

I believe that the evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion.

My independence and quality management relating to the report on financial statements, controls and key performance indicators

I have complied with the independence requirements of the *Auditor General Act 2006* and the relevant ethical requirements relating to assurance engagements. In accordance with ASQM 1 *Quality Management for Firms that Perform Audits or Reviews of Financial Reports and Other Financial Information, or Other Assurance or Related Services Engagements*, the Office of the Auditor General maintains a comprehensive system of quality management including documented policies and procedures regarding compliance with ethical requirements, professional standards and applicable legal and regulatory requirements.

Other information

The University Council is responsible for the other information. The other information is the information in the entity's annual report for the year ended 31 December 2023, but not the financial statements, key performance indicators and my auditor's report.

My opinions on the financial statements, controls and key performance indicators do not cover the other information and, accordingly, I do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with my audit of the financial statements, controls and key performance indicators my responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements, key performance indicators or my knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated.

If, based on the work I have performed, I conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, I am required to report that fact. I did not receive the other information prior to the date of this auditor's report. When I do receive it, I will read it and if I conclude that there is a material misstatement in this information, I am required to communicate the matter to those charged with governance and request them to correct the misstated information. If the misstated information is not corrected, I may need to retract this auditor's report and re-issue an amended report..

Matters relating to the electronic publication of the audited financial statements and key performance indicators

This auditor's report relates to the financial statements and key performance indicators of Edith Cowan University for the year ended 31 December 2023 included in the annual report on the University's website. The University's management is responsible for the integrity of the University's website. This audit does not provide assurance on the integrity of the University's website. The auditor's report refers only to the financial statements, controls and key performance indicators described above. It does not provide an opinion on any other information which may have been hyperlinked to/from the annual report. If users of the financial statements and key performance indicators are concerned with the inherent risks arising from publication on a website, they are advised to contact the entity to confirm the information contained in the website version.



Sandra Labuschagne
Deputy Auditor General
Delegate of the Auditor General for Western Australia
Perth, Western Australia
14 March 2024

CERTIFICATION OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

The accompanying financial statements of Edith Cowan University have been prepared in compliance with the provisions of the Financial Management Act 2006 from proper accounts and records to present fairly the financial transactions for the reporting period ended 31 December 2023 and the financial position as at 31 December 2023.

At the date of signing, we are not aware of any circumstances which would render the particulars included in the financial statements misleading or inaccurate.



Denise Goldsworthy AO
Chancellor
14 March 2024



Professor Steve Chapman CBE
Vice-Chancellor
14 March 2024



Brad Francis
Chief Financial Officer
14 March 2024

We declare that the amount of Australian Government financial assistance expended during the financial year ended 31 December 2023 was for the purposes for which it was intended, and that Edith Cowan University has complied with applicable legislation, contracts, agreements and program guidelines in making expenditure.

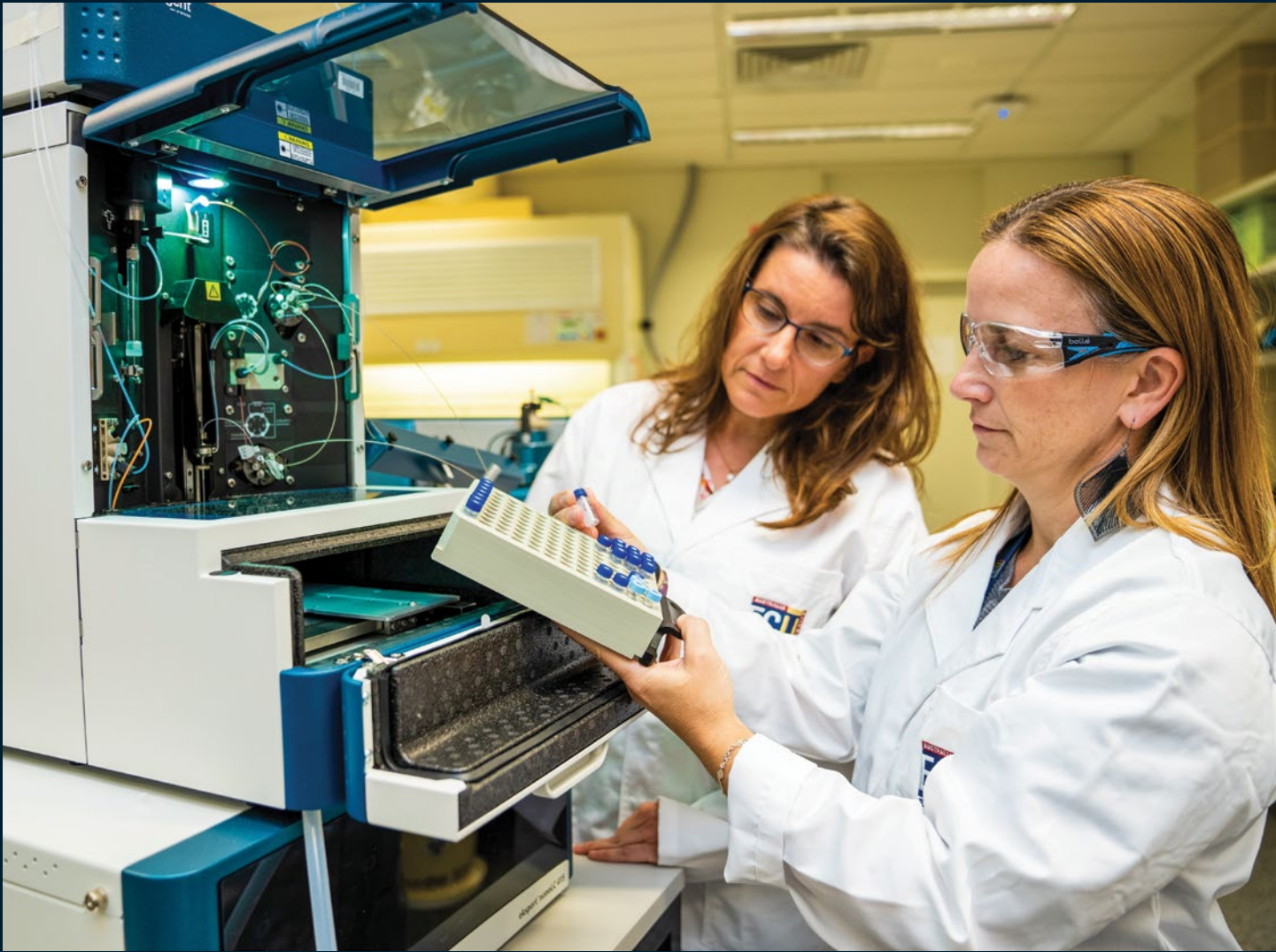
ECU charged Student Services and Amenities Fees strictly in accordance with the Higher Education Support Act 2003 and the Administration Guidelines made under the Act. Revenue from the fee was spent strictly in accordance with the Act, and only on services and amenities specified in subsection 19-38(4) of the Act.



Denise Goldsworthy AO
Chancellor
14 March 2024



Professor Steve Chapman CBE
Vice-Chancellor
14 March 2024



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The financial report covers the Edith Cowan University as a group and as an individual entity. The financial report is presented in Australian dollars.

The financial report was authorised for issue by the University Council on 14 March 2024. The University has the power to amend and reissue the financial statements.

Edith Cowan University

Income statement

For the year ended 31 December 2023

	Note	Consolidated		Parent	
		2023 \$'000	2022 \$'000	2023 \$'000	2022 \$'000
Revenue and income from continuing operations					
Australian Government financial assistance					
Australian Government grants	2.1	240,445	208,747	240,445	208,747
HELP - Australian Government payments	2.1	107,320	103,961	107,320	103,961
State and Local Government financial assistance	2.2	28,866	15,537	28,866	15,537
HECS-HELP - student payments		7,764	6,377	7,764	6,377
Fees and charges	2.3	202,228	124,457	193,829	117,387
Royalties	2.4	271	554	271	554
Consultancy and contract fees	2.5	9,596	10,745	9,592	10,745
Other revenue	2.6	13,124	11,787	23,922	14,332
Investment income gains/(losses)	3	62,155	(5,969)	60,926	(6,829)
Gains on disposal of assets		1	33	1	33
Share of profit or loss on investments accounted for using the equity method	15	4,200	1,226	4,200	1,226
Total Revenue and income from continuing operations		675,970	477,455	677,136	472,070
Expenses from continuing operations					
Employee related expenses	4	278,065	261,543	278,042	260,742
Repairs and maintenance	5	9,026	7,637	9,026	7,637
Borrowing costs	6	8,932	11,862	8,234	11,862
Impairment of assets	7	404	-	440	780
Other expenses	8	163,848	134,661	161,408	131,855
Depreciation and amortisation	16	25,959	23,850	25,806	23,734
Total expenses from continuing operations		486,234	439,553	482,956	436,610
Net result before income tax		189,736	37,902	194,180	35,460
Income tax	9	-	-	-	-
Net result after income tax		189,736	37,902	194,180	35,460

The above income statement should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

Edith Cowan University

Statement of comprehensive income

For the year ended 31 December 2023

	Note	Consolidated		Parent	
		2023 \$'000	2022 \$'000	2023 \$'000	2022 \$'000
Net result after tax for the year		189,736	37,902	194,180	35,460
Items that will be reclassified to profit or loss					
Gain/(loss) on cash flow hedges	22	(320)	147	(320)	147
Exchange differences on translation of foreign operations	22	-	(8)	-	-
Items that will not be reclassified to profit or loss					
Gain/(loss) on revaluation of property, plant and equipment	22	989	53,176	989	53,176
Gain/(loss) on value of investments designated as fair value through other comprehensive income	22	(10,627)	(14,202)	188	(103)
Total other comprehensive income		(9,958)	39,113	857	53,220
Total comprehensive income attributable to the University		179,778	77,015	195,037	88,680

The above statement of comprehensive income should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

Edith Cowan University

Statement of financial position

As at 31 December 2023

	Note	Consolidated		Parent	
		2023 \$'000	2022 \$'000	2023 \$'000	2022 \$'000
Assets					
Current assets					
Cash and cash equivalents	10	181,740	135,138	177,424	122,023
Receivables	11	17,674	19,617	18,050	19,848
Other financial assets	12	580,242	605,889	580,241	605,650
Other non-financial assets	13	43,907	17,787	20,586	17,241
Total current assets		823,563	778,431	796,301	764,762
Non-current assets					
Receivables	11	11,580	13,187	11,580	13,187
Other financial assets	12	311,166	305,640	288,921	254,131
Other non-financial assets	13	858	958	858	958
Investment properties	14	19,450	21,083	19,450	21,083
Investments accounted for using the equity method	15	1,797	526	1,797	526
Property, plant and equipment	16	1,046,510	899,610	1,045,817	899,172
Investment in subsidiaries	27	-	-	55,584	55,624
Total non-current assets		1,391,361	1,241,004	1,424,007	1,244,681
Total assets		2,214,924	2,019,435	2,220,308	2,009,443
Liabilities					
Current liabilities					
Trade and other payables	17	50,017	29,548	74,499	52,941
Contract liabilities	17	20,670	17,710	20,670	17,710
Borrowings	18	2,193	2,116	2,193	2,116
Other financial liabilities	19	200	-	200	-
Employee benefit provisions	20	56,175	57,532	56,175	57,532
Other Provisions	20	3,175	11,547	3,175	11,547
Other liabilities	21	172,000	157,265	170,477	156,714
Total current liabilities		304,430	275,718	327,389	298,560
Non-current liabilities					
Borrowings	18	401,033	402,972	401,033	402,972
Employee benefit provisions	20	17,896	21,458	17,896	21,458
Other Provisions	20	-	1,478	-	1,478
Other liabilities	21	107,547	113,569	107,547	113,569
Total non-current liabilities		526,476	539,477	526,476	539,477
Total liabilities		830,906	815,195	853,865	838,037
Net Assets		1,384,018	1,204,240	1,366,443	1,171,406
Equity					
Reserves	22	284,379	288,784	292,198	291,341
Retained earnings	22	1,099,639	915,456	1,074,245	880,065
Total equity		1,384,018	1,204,240	1,366,443	1,171,406

The above statement of financial position should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

Edith Cowan University

Statement of changes in equity

For the year ended 31 December 2023

2023

	Note	Consolidated			Total \$'000
		Retained Earnings \$'000	General Reserves \$'000	Foreign Currency Translation Reserve \$'000	
Balance at 1 January 2023		915,456	288,761	23	1,204,240
Net result after income tax	22	189,736	-		189,736
Other comprehensive income					
Gain/(loss) on revaluation of properties	22	-	989	-	989
Gain/(loss) on financial assets at fair value through other comprehensive income	22	-	(10,627)	-	(10,627)
Gain/(loss) on cash flow hedges	22	-	(320)	-	(320)
Gain/(loss) on foreign exchange	22	-	-	-	-
Transfer to revaluation reserves from retained surplus for asset sales		(5,553)	5,576	(23)	-
Other comprehensive income		(5,553)	(4,382)	(23)	(9,958)
Total comprehensive income		184,183	(4,382)	(23)	179,778
Balance at 31 December 2023		1,099,639	284,379	-	1,384,018

2022

	Note	Consolidated			Total \$'000
		Retained Earnings \$'000	General Reserves \$'000	Foreign Currency Translation Reserve \$'000	
Balance at 1 January 2022		877,554	249,640	31	1,127,225
Net result after income tax	22	37,902	-	-	37,902
Other comprehensive income					
Gain/(loss) on revaluation of properties	22	-	53,176	-	53,176
Gain/(loss) on financial assets at fair value through other comprehensive income	22	-	(14,202)	-	(14,202)
Gain/(loss) on cash flow hedges	22	-	147	-	147
Gain/(loss) on foreign exchange	22	-	-	(8)	(8)
Transfer to revaluation reserves from retained surplus for asset sales	22	-	-	-	-
Other comprehensive income		-	39,121	(8)	39,113
Total comprehensive income		37,902	39,121	(8)	77,015
Balance at 31 December 2022		915,456	288,761	23	1,204,240

The above statement of changes in equity should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

Edith Cowan University

Statement of changes in equity

For the year ended 31 December 2023

2023	Note	Parent			Total \$'000
		Retained Earnings \$'000	General Reserves \$'000	Foreign Currency Translation Reserve \$'000	
Balance at 1 January 2023		880,065	291,341	-	1,171,406
Net result after income tax	22	194,180	-	-	194,180
Other comprehensive income					
Gain/(loss) on revaluation of properties	22	-	989	-	989
Gain/(loss) on financial assets at fair value through other comprehensive income	22	-	188	-	188
Gain/(loss) on cash flow hedges	22	-	(320)	-	(320)
Transfer to revaluation reserves from retained surplus		-	-	-	-
Other comprehensive income		-	857	-	857
Total comprehensive income		194,180	857	-	195,037
Balance at 31 December 2023		1,074,245	292,198	-	1,366,443

2022	Note	Parent			Total \$'000
		Retained Earnings \$'000	General Reserves \$'000	Foreign Currency Translation Reserve \$'000	
Balance at 1 January 2022		844,605	238,121	-	1,082,726
Net result after income tax	22	35,460	-	-	35,460
Other comprehensive income					
Gain/(loss) on revaluation of properties	22	-	53,176	-	53,176
Gain/(loss) on financial assets at fair value through other comprehensive income	22	-	(103)	-	(103)
Gain/(loss) on cash flow hedges	22	-	147	-	147
Transfer to revaluation reserves from retained surplus	22	-	-	-	-
Other comprehensive income		-	53,220	-	53,220
Total comprehensive income		35,460	53,220	-	88,680
Balance at 31 December 2022		880,065	291,341	-	1,171,406

The above statement of changes in equity should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

Edith Cowan University

Statement of cash flows

For the year ended 31 December 2023

	Note	Consolidated		Parent	
		2023	2022	2023	2022
		\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Cash flows from operating activities					
Australian Government grants received	2.1(f)	310,918	293,915	310,918	293,915
OS-HELP (net)	2.1(f)	1,848	(4,495)	1,848	(4,495)
Superannuation supplementation	2.1(f)	1,894	1,897	1,894	1,897
State Government grants		13,851	15,525	13,851	15,525
Local Government grants received		15	12	15	12
HECS-HELP - Student payments		7,764	6,377	7,764	6,377
Receipts from student fees and other customers		227,380	176,461	244,687	171,546
Dividends and distributions received		10,339	41,903	17,464	16,386
Interest received		24,883	5,891	24,030	5,789
Payments to suppliers and employees (inclusive of GST)		(508,125)	(397,718)	(504,487)	(370,359)
Interest and other costs of finance		(8,164)	(11,790)	(8,164)	(11,790)
GST (paid)/recovered		16,326	5,520	15,972	5,200
Short-term lease payments		(110)	(206)	(110)	(102)
Lease payments for leases of low-value assets		(2,320)	(2,386)	(2,320)	(2,386)
Net cash provided by operating activities before Capital Grants		96,499	130,906	123,362	127,515
Commonwealth and State Government Capital Grants received	2.1(f)	85,000	55,000	85,000	55,000
Net cash provided by operating activities	29	181,499	185,906	208,362	182,515
Cash flows from investing activities					
Proceeds from sales of property, plant and equipment, intangibles and other long-term assets		1	35	1	35
Payments to acquire property, plant and equipment, intangibles and other long-term assets		(171,710)	(73,127)	(171,302)	(72,995)
Receipts from financial assets		36,851	-	18,013	-
Payments for financial assets		-	(155,764)	-	(155,723)
Loan to Associates		(366)	-	-	(299)
Distributions from joint venture		2,447	1,282	2,447	1,282
Net cash used in investing activities		(132,777)	(227,574)	(150,841)	(227,700)
Cash flows from financing activities					
Repayment of borrowings net of loan acquired		(1,849)	(1,781)	(1,849)	(1,781)
Payment of principal portion of lease liabilities		(271)	(703)	(271)	(703)
Net cash used in financing activities		(2,120)	(2,484)	(2,120)	(2,484)
Net increase / (decrease) in cash and cash equivalents		46,602	(44,152)	55,401	(47,669)
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the financial year		135,138	179,290	122,023	169,692
Cash and cash equivalents at end of financial year	10	181,740	135,138	177,424	122,023

The above statement of cash flows should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

Edith Cowan University
Notes to the financial statements
For the year ended 31 December 2023

Notes to the financial statements

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Edith Cowan University

Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 31 December 2023

1 Summary of Material Accounting Information

The principal accounting policies adopted in the preparation of the annual financial statements are set out below. These policies have been consistently applied to all years presented, unless otherwise stated. The annual financial statements include separate statements for Edith Cowan University as the parent entity and the consolidated entity consisting of Edith Cowan University and its subsidiaries.

The principal address of Edith Cowan University is: 270 Joondalup Drive, Joondalup, Western Australia, 6027.

i) Basis of preparation

The annual financial statements represent the audited general purpose financial statements of Edith Cowan University ("ECU" or "University") and its subsidiaries ("Consolidated Entity"). They have been prepared on an accrual basis and comply with the Australian Accounting Standards and the requirements of the Australian Charities and Not-for-Profit Commission Act 2012.

The University applies Tier 1 reporting requirements.

Additionally, the statements have been prepared in accordance with the following statutory requirements:

- Higher Education Support Act 2003 (Financial Statement Guidelines);
- Financial Management Act 2006; and
- Applicable Western Australian Government Treasury instructions.

Edith Cowan University is a not-for-profit entity and these statements have been prepared on that basis in accordance with the Australian Accounting Standards.

Date of authorisation for issue

The financial statements were authorised for issue by the University Council on 14 March 2024.

Historical cost convention

These financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention, as modified by the revaluation of certain assets and liabilities (including derivative instruments) at fair value through other comprehensive income or profit or loss, and certain classes of property, plant and equipment and investment property.

Critical accounting estimates and judgements

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with Australian Accounting Standards requires the use of certain critical accounting estimates. It also requires management to exercise its judgement in the process of applying the University's accounting policies. The estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. The areas involving a higher degree of judgement or complexity, or areas where assumptions and estimates are significant to the financial statements are disclosed below:

- Estimating the useful life of key assets;
- Impairment of assets;
- Classification of financial assets;
- Estimation of fair value of assets;
- Investments accounted for using the equity method;
- Discount rates and payback periods used in estimating provisions;
- Estimating liabilities for defined benefit superannuation plans; and
- Treatment of franking credit refunds

Treatment of franking credit refunds:

The University via ECU Holdings Pty Ltd as trustee for The Edith Cowan University Hold Trust ("the Trust") has made a significant judgement with respect to the application and interpretation of sections of the Income Tax Assessment Act 1997 ('ITAA 1997') which deals with the tax implications of receiving franked distributions in a form other than money and the eligibility to have franking credits attributed to such distributions refunded by the Australian Taxation Office ('ATO').

The Trust received such franking credits as a cash refund in December 2022 from the ATO with indications from ATO that the Trust's eligibility to such amounts may be, or was, being reviewed. The ATO subsequently issued an amended assessment that the Trustee is not entitled to the refunds for the franking credits and the refunded amount has since been repaid back to the ATO. However, as supported by legal advice from the Trustee's expert advisors, the Trustee maintains the view that the Trust is entitled to such refunds (assessed as probable) and has lodged on objection to the assessment. Refer to Note 13 Other non-financial assets.

Changes in accounting estimates and judgements

The estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised if the revision affects only that period, or in the period of the revision and future periods if the revision affects both current and future periods.

Edith Cowan University
Notes to the financial statements
For the year ended 31 December 2023

1 Summary of Material Accounting (continued)

ii) Basis for consolidation

The consolidated financial statements incorporate the assets and liabilities of all subsidiaries of Edith Cowan University ("parent entity") as at 31 December 2023 and the results of all subsidiaries for the year then ended. Edith Cowan University and its subsidiaries together are referred to in this financial report as the Group or the consolidated entity.

iii) Revenue recognition

Revenue is measured at the fair value of the consideration received or receivable. Amounts disclosed as revenue are net of returns, trade allowances, rebates and amounts collected on behalf of third parties.

The University recognises revenue when the amount of revenue can be reliably measured, it is probable that future economic benefits will flow to the University and specific criteria have been met for each of the University's activities as described in the relevant notes as applicable. In some cases this may not be probable until consideration is received or an uncertainty is removed. The University bases its estimates on historical results, taking into consideration the type of customer, the type of transaction and the specifics of each arrangement.

iv) Foreign currency translation and hedge accounting

(i) Functional and presentation currency

Items included in the financial statements of each of the University's entities are measured using the currency of the primary economic environment in which the entity operates ('the functional currency'). The financial statements are presented in Australian Dollars, which is the University's functional and presentation currency.

(ii) Transactions and balances

Foreign currency transactions are translated into the functional currency using the exchange rates prevailing at the dates of the transactions. Foreign exchange gains and losses resulting from the settlement of such transactions and from the translation at year-end exchange rates of monetary assets and liabilities denominated in foreign currencies are recognised in the income statement. Qualifying cash flow hedges shall be accounted for by recognising the portion of the gain or loss determined to be an effective hedge in other comprehensive income and the ineffective portion in profit or loss.

If gains or losses on non-monetary items are recognised in other comprehensive income, translation gains or losses are also recognised in other comprehensive income. Similarly, if gains or losses on non-monetary items are recognised in profit or loss, translation gains or losses are also recognised in profit or loss.

Goodwill and fair value adjustments arising on the acquisition of a foreign entity are treated as assets and liabilities of the foreign entity and translated at the closing rate.

(iii) Group companies

The results and financial position of all ECU's entities (none of which has the currency of a hyperinflationary economy) that have a functional currency different from the presentation currency are translated into the presentation currency as follows:

- Assets and liabilities for each statement of financial position presented are translated at the closing rate at the end of the reporting period;
- Income and expenses for each income statement are translated at average exchange rates (unless this is not a reasonable approximation of the cumulative effect of the rates prevailing on the transaction dates, in which case income and expenses are translated at the dates of the transactions);
- All resulting exchange differences are recognised as a separate component of equity.

Edith Cowan University
Notes to the financial statements
For the year ended 31 December 2023

1 Summary of Material Accounting (continued)

v) Goods and Services Tax (GST)

Revenues, expenses and assets are recognised net of the amount of associated GST, unless the GST incurred is not recoverable from the taxation authority. In this case, it is recognised as part of the cost of acquisition of the asset or as part of the expense.

Receivables and payables are stated inclusive of the amount of GST receivable or payable. The net amount of GST recoverable from, or payable to, the taxation authority is included with other receivables or payables in the statement of financial position.

Cash flows are presented on a gross basis. The GST components of cash flows arising from investing or financing activities which are recoverable from, or payable to the taxation authority, are presented as operating cash flows.

vi) Comparative Figures

Where necessary, comparative information has been reclassified to enhance comparability in respect of changes in presentation adopted in the current year.

vii) Initial application of Australian Accounting Standards

ECU applied for the first-time certain standards and/or amendments, which are effective for annual period beginning on or after 1 January 2023 (unless otherwise stated). The impact has been disclosed in the table below.

Standard	Key requirements	Impact	Effective Date
AASB2021-2 Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards – Disclosure of Accounting Policies and Definition of Accounting Estimates	The Standard amends:		1 January 2023
	AASB7, to clarify that information about measurement bases for financial instruments is expected to be material to an entity's financial statements.	No impact – ECU discloses information about the measurement basis for financial instruments used in preparing financial statements.	
	AASB101, to require entities to disclose their material accounting policy information rather than their significant accounting policies.	ECU has amended the accounting policy disclosure wording to 'material accounting policy information'.	
	AASB134 Interim Financial Reporting, to identify material accounting policy information as a component of a complete set of financial statements.	ECU's existing accounting policy discloses 'material accounting policy information' (i.e., information that can reasonably be expected to influence decisions that the primary users of general purpose financial statements make on the basis of those financial statements).	
AASB2021-6 Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards – Disclosure of Accounting Policies: Tier 2 and Other Australian Accounting Standards	AASB108, to clarify how entities should distinguish changes in accounting policies and changes in accounting estimates.	No impact – existing accounting policy incorporates measurement techniques in relation to accounting estimates.	1 January 2023
	AASB Practice Statement 2, to provide guidance on how to apply the concept of materiality to accounting policy disclosures.		
	The Standard amends:		
AASB2021-6 Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards – Disclosure of Accounting Policies: Tier 2 and Other Australian Accounting Standards	AASB1048 Whole Government and General Government Sector Financial	ECU has amended the accounting policy disclosure wording to 'material accounting policy information'.	1 January 2023
	AASB1049 Whole of Government and General Government Sector Financial Reporting, to require entities to disclose their material accounting policy information rather than their significant accounting policies.	ECU's existing accounting policy discloses 'material accounting policy information'.	
	AASB1054 Australian Additional Disclosures, to reflect the updated terminology used in AASB101.		

Edith Cowan University
Notes to the financial statements
For the year ended 31 December 2023

1 Summary of Material Accounting (continued)

viii) New Accounting standards and interpretations issued but not yet effective

The following standards and amendments have been issued but are not mandatory for 31 December 2023 reporting periods. ECU has elected not to early adopt any of these standards and amendments. ECU's assessment of the impact of these new standards and interpretations is set out below.

Standard	Name	Application	Implications
AASB2014-10	Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards – Sale or Contribution of Assets between an Investor and its Associate or Joint Venture – Amendments to AASB10 and AASB128	1 January 2025	No sale or contribution of assets between ECU and its, associates or joint ventures. Minimal impact when applicable.
AASB2020-1	Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards – Classification of Liabilities as Current or Non-current – Amendments to AASB101	1 January 2024	ECU will amend its accounting policy to include that a liability is classified as non-current when the entity has the right at balance date to defer settlement of the liability for at least twelve months after the reporting period. Also, that the right must have substance and must exist at balance date. ECU does not expect a significant impact on existing disclosure.
AASB2022-5	Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards – Lease Liability in a Sale and Leaseback – Amendments to AASB16	1 January 2024	No sale or leaseback transactions. Minimal impact when applicable.
AASB2022-10	Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards – Fair Value Measurement of Non-Financial Assets of Not-for-Profit Public Sector Entities	1 January 2024	ECU does not expect these changes to have a fundamental impact of the fair value measurement.
AASB2022-6	Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards – Non-current Liabilities with Covenants	1 January 2024	ECU does not expect this standard to have an impact on existing loan disclosure.
AASB2023-1	Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards – Supplier Finance Arrangements	1 January 2024	ECU does not have any Supplier Finance Arrangements. Minimal impact when applicable.

ix) Rounding of amounts

Amounts in the financial statements have been rounded off to the nearest thousand dollars.

Edith Cowan University
Notes to the financial statements
For the year ended 31 December 2023

2 Revenue and Income

2.1 Australian Government Financial Assistance including Australian Government Loan Programs (HELP)

a) *Commonwealth Grants Scheme and Other Grants*

	Notes	Consolidated		Parent	
		2023 \$'000	2022 \$'000	2023 \$'000	2022 \$'000
Commonwealth Grants Scheme ^{#1}		153,674	160,457	153,674	160,457
Indigenous Student Success Program		1,345	1,234	1,345	1,234
Higher Education Participation Program ^{#2}		3,044	2,638	3,044	2,638
Disability Support Program ^{#3}		344	272	344	272
National Priorities Pool		1,057	2,083	1,057	2,083
Total Commonwealth Grants Scheme and Other Grants	35(a)	159,464	166,684	159,464	166,684
b) <i>Higher Education Loan Programs</i>					
HECS-HELP		74,366	72,732	74,366	72,732
FEE-HELP		28,949	27,113	28,949	27,113
VET FEE-HELP		1,466	1,528	1,466	1,528
SA-HELP	35(i)	2,539	2,588	2,539	2,588
Total Higher Education Loan Programs	35(b)	107,320	103,961	107,320	103,961
c) <i>Education Research</i>					
Research Training Program	35(c)	6,580	6,412	6,580	6,412
Research Support Program	35(c)	3,701	3,459	3,701	3,459
Total Education Research Grants		10,281	9,871	10,281	9,871
d) <i>Australian Research Council</i>					
Discovery		1,023	583	1,023	583
Linkages ^{#4}		-	-	-	-
Total Australian Research Council	35(e)	1,023	583	1,023	583
e) <i>Other Australian Government financial assistance</i>					
Capital					
Commonwealth Government capital grants		57,382	24,337	57,382	24,337
Total Capital		57,382	24,337	57,382	24,337
Non-capital					
National competitive		5,569	3,771	5,569	3,771
Other research grants		2,998	2,662	2,998	2,662
Other non-research grants		3,728	839	3,728	839
Total Non-capital		12,295	7,272	12,295	7,272
Total other Australian Government financial assistance		69,677	31,609	69,677	31,609
Total Australian Government financial assistance		347,765	312,708	347,765	312,708

#1 Includes the basic CGS grant amount, Medical Student Loading, Transition Fund Loading, Allocated Places and Non-designated Courses.

#2 Includes the Higher Education Participation and Partnership Program, Regional Loading and Enabling Loading.

#3 Higher Education Disability Support Program includes Additional Support for Students with Disabilities and Australian Disability Clearinghouse on Education and Training.

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Notes to the financial statements
For the year ended 31 December 2023

2 Revenue and Income (continued)

	Consolidated		Parent	
	2023 \$'000	2022 \$'000	2023 \$'000	2022 \$'000
Reconciliation				
Australian Government grants (a + c + d + e)	240,445	208,747	240,445	208,747
HECS - HELP payments	74,366	72,732	74,366	72,732
FEE - HELP payments	28,949	27,113	28,949	27,113
VET FEE - HELP	1,466	1,528	1,466	1,528
SA - HELP payments	2,539	2,588	2,539	2,588
Total Australian Government financial assistance	347,765	312,708	347,765	312,708

f) *Australian Government Grants received – cash basis (Note 35 Acquittal of Australian Government financial assistance)*

	Notes	Consolidated		Parent	
		2023 \$'000	2022 \$'000	2023 \$'000	2022 \$'000
CGS and other Education Grants	35(a)	175,105	171,657	175,105	171,657
Higher Education Loan Programs	35(b)	113,008	104,371	113,008	104,371
Department of Education, Skills and Employment and Training Research	35(c)	10,281	9,871	10,281	9,871
ARC grants - Discovery & Linkages	35(e)	229	744	229	744
Other Australian Government grants	35(f)	82,295	62,272	82,295	62,272
Total Australian Government grants received - cash basis		380,918	348,915	380,918	348,915
OS-HELP (net)	35(g)	1,848	(4,495)	1,848	(4,495)
Superannuation Supplementation	35(h)	1,894	1,897	1,894	1,897
Total Australian Government funding received - cash basis		384,660	346,317	384,660	346,317

2.2 State and local government financial assistance

	Consolidated		Parent	
	2023 \$'000	2022 \$'000	2023 \$'000	2022 \$'000
Capital				
WA State Government capital grants	15,012	2,159	15,012	2,159
Total Capital	15,012	2,159	15,012	2,159
Non-capital				
WA State Government research grants	5,081	4,691	5,081	4,691
WA State Government operating grants	8,758	8,675	8,758	8,675
Local Government research grants	15	12	15	12
Total Non-Capital	13,854	13,378	13,854	13,378
Total State and Local Government financial assistance	28,866	15,537	28,866	15,537

Edith Cowan University
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For the year ended 31 December 2023

2.3 Fees and charges

	Consolidated		Parent	
	2023	2022	2023	2022
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Course fees and charges				
Fee-paying onshore overseas students	166,752	93,621	166,752	93,621
Fee-paying offshore overseas students	3,049	4,330	3,049	3,970
Continuing education - short course fees	2,008	1,750	2,008	1,750
Fee-paying domestic postgraduate students	6,599	5,936	6,599	5,936
Fee-paying domestic undergraduate students	121	976	121	976
Fee-paying non award courses	121	121	121	121
Total course fees and charges	178,650	106,734	178,650	106,374
Other non-course fees and charges				
Student Services and Amenities Fees	1,191	1,165	1,191	1,165
Service fees	4,276	2,521	4,276	2,521
Parking fees	1,852	1,739	1,852	1,739
Facility hire	2,319	2,188	2,319	2,188
Student accommodation and rental income	8,399	6,710	-	-
Other sundry fees and charges	5,541	3,400	5,541	3,400
Total other non-course fees and charges	23,578	17,723	15,179	11,013
Total fees and charges	202,228	124,457	193,829	117,387

2.4 Royalties

	Consolidated		Parent	
	2023	2022	2023	2022
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Royalties	271	554	271	554

2.5 Consultancies and contracts

	Consolidated		Parent	
	2023	2022	2023	2022
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Consultancies	821	525	821	525
Contract research	8,775	10,220	8,771	10,220
Total consultancies and contracts	9,596	10,745	9,592	10,745

2.6 Other revenue

	Consolidated		Parent	
	2023	2022	2023	2022
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Other revenue				
Donations and bequests	3,034	1,937	3,034	1,937
Scholarships and prizes	828	364	828	364
Commissions, recoveries and rebates recovered	6,855	6,667	8,047	7,397
Sale of goods	903	1,001	903	1,001
Box office sales	834	541	834	541
Other revenue	670	1,277	10,276	3,092
Total other revenue	13,124	11,787	23,922	14,332

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Notes to the financial statements
For the year ended 31 December 2023

2.7 Revenue and income from continuing operations

Accounting policies and significant accounting judgements and estimates

Australian Government financial assistance

Commonwealth Grant Scheme funding represents subsidies for tuition costs for higher education students. These funds fall under AASB 15 and the revenue is recognised over time as the student receives the tuition services.

Indigenous Student Success Program (ISSP) funding represents grants provided to accelerate improvements in the university enrolment, progression and award completions of Indigenous Australians. This funding falls under AASB 1058 (as the performance obligations are not 'sufficiently specific') and the revenue is recognised when received.

Higher Education Disability Support Program (DSP) provides funding to eligible higher education providers, to assist with supporting students with disability to access, participate and succeed in higher education. This funding falls under AASB 1058 (as the performance obligations are not 'sufficiently specific') and the revenue is recognised when received.

The National Priorities pool allocates block grants to support enhanced engagement with universities and industries to produce job-ready graduates. These grants fall under AASB 1058 (as the performance obligations are not 'sufficiently specific') and the revenue is recognised when received.

Capital Grant income (mainly ECU City Campus and Yanchep Health Centre) is recognised as construction progresses and each performance obligation specified in the agreement is satisfied in accordance with AASB 1058.

The remaining revenue in this category falls under AASB 1058 and the revenue is recognised when received.

Education Research

The Research Training Program (RTP) provides block grants to higher education providers (HEPs) to support both domestic and overseas students undertaking research doctorate and research masters degrees, known as higher degrees by research (HDRs).

The Research Support Program (RSP) provides funding to HEPs to support the systemic costs of research such as libraries, laboratories, consumables, computing centres and the salaries of support and technical staff, as well as research costs not supported directly through Australian competitive grants and other sources.

These grants fall under AASB 1058 (as the performance obligations are not 'sufficiently specific') and the revenue is recognised when received.

State and Local Government Financial Assistance

Non-Capital: Where an enforceable contract exists between the University and the State or Local Government and performance obligations are sufficiently specific, revenue is recognised under AASB 15. The revenue is recognised under AASB 15:

- Over time when the University satisfies its obligations under the contract as service is performed, which established rights to receive; or
- At a point in time when the service is provided.

Capital: Where an enforceable contract exists between the University and the State or Local Government and the contract requires the University to acquire or construct a non-financial asset to be controlled by the University, revenue is recognised under AASB 1058 as obligations are satisfied.

Course fees and charges and Research

The course fees and charges revenue relate to undergraduate programs, graduate and professional degree programs and continuing education and executive programs.

The revenue is recognised over time as and when the course is delivered to students over the semester in accordance with AASB 15.

When the courses or training have been paid in advance by students or the University has received the government funding in advance (e.g. before starting the academic period), the University recognises a contract liability until the services are delivered.

The University does not have any obligations to return or refund fees.

There is no significant financing component, as the period to when the student has paid and the service is provided is less than 12 months and the consideration is not variable.

Revenue recognition for research funding is dependent upon the source of the funding and the nature of the transaction.

The following specific research revenue recognition criteria have been applied:

- Funding received from Australian Research Council ("ARC"): enforceable contract criteria are met and sufficiently specific performance obligations are contained in the proposal for the grant.
- Funding received from National Health and Medical Research Council ("NHMRC"): enforceable contract criteria are met and sufficiently specific performance obligations are contained in the proposal for the grant.
- Funding received from the Department of Education, Skills and Employment – Research Block Grant ("RBG"): enforceable contract criteria are met and sufficiently specific performance obligations are contained in the proposal for the grant.
- Funding received from non-government entities: enforceable contract criteria are met and sufficiently specific performance obligations are contained in the proposal for the grant.

The revenue is recognised:

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Notes to the financial statements
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2.7 Revenue and income from continuing operations (continued)

- Over time when the University satisfies its obligations under the contract as service is performed, which established rights to receive; or
- At a point in time when the service is provided.

The research grants that are considered within the scope of AASB 15 meet the enforceability criteria due to the existence of refund clauses in the agreements with the grantor and the promises to transfer goods or services to the customer (or on behalf of the customer) are sufficiently specific as the University has the obligation to provide:

- Publishing or providing access to research data and results on an ongoing basis in an openly accessible repository as requested by the grantor; and
- Intellectual property that ultimately transfers to the grantor.

Depending on the nature of the promise, the University either recognises revenue at a point in the time when the promise is delivered (e.g. when research findings are published or made available) or recognises revenue over time as the service is performed (e.g. as the customer obtains control or access to the intellectual property or research data as it is created).

Non-course fees and charges

Non-course fees and charges revenue relates to student services and amenities fees, parking fees, facility hire and student accommodation.

Revenue is recognised under AASB 15:

- Over time as and when the service is provided; or
- At a point in time when the service is provided.

Other

Other revenue that is within the scope of AASB 15 mainly relates to donations and bequests, scholarships, commissions and sale of goods.

Revenue is recognised:

- Over time as and when the service is provided over the period; or
- At a point in time when the service or goods are provided.

Royalties

Royalties that are within the scope of AASB 15 mainly relate to revenue from surveys.

Revenue is recognised at a point in time when the service is provided.

(a) Unsatisfied performance obligations

Remaining performance obligations represent services the University has promised to provide to customers under research agreements which are satisfied as the goods or services are provided over the contract term. In determining the transaction price allocated to the remaining performance obligations in the University's contracts with customers, the University has allocated unused funding to these obligations. For customer contracts with terms of one year or less, or where revenue is recognised using the 'right to invoice' method of recognising revenue, as permitted under AASB 15, disclosures are not required in relation to the transaction price allocated to these unsatisfied performance obligations. Further, the amounts disclosed below do not include variable consideration which has been constrained.

These unsatisfied performance obligations are expected to be satisfied within the following periods:

	Within 1 year \$'000	From 1 to 5 years \$'000	After 5 years \$'000	Total \$'000
31 December 2023				
Consolidated				
Contract Liabilities	20,670	-	-	20,670
Parent				
Contract Liabilities	20,670	-	-	20,670
	Within 1 year \$'000	From 1 to 5 years \$'000	After 5 years \$'000	Total \$'000
31 December 2022				
Consolidated				
Contract Liabilities	17,710	-	-	17,710
Parent				
Contract Liabilities	17,710	-	-	17,710

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Notes to the financial statements
For the year ended 31 December 2023

2.7 Revenue and income from continuing operations (continued)

(b) Assets and liabilities related to contracts with customers

The University has recognised the following assets and liabilities related to contracts with customers:

	Notes	Consolidated		Parent	
		2023 \$'000	2022 \$'000	2023 \$'000	2022 \$'000
Contract liabilities - current	17	20,670	17,710	20,670	17,710

Revenue recognised in the reporting period that was included in the contract liability balance at the beginning of the period was \$17.7m.

Accounting policy

While a receivable is the University's right to consideration that is unconditional, a contract asset is the University's right to consideration in exchange for goods or services that the University has transferred to the customer when that right is conditioned on something other than the passage of time (e.g. the University's future performance).

Contract liabilities

The contract liabilities are associated to research contracts and scholarships.

Accounting policy

A contract liability is the obligation to transfer goods or services to a customer for which the University has received consideration (or an amount of consideration is due) from the customer. If a customer pays consideration before the University transfers goods or services to the customer, a contract liability is recognised when the payment is made or the payment is due (whichever is earlier). Contract liabilities are recognised as revenue when the University performs under the contract (AASB 15).

(c) Right of return assets and refund liabilities

The University has no right of return assets and refund liabilities related to contracts with customers.

Income of not-for-profit entities

(d) Accounting policies and significant accounting judgements and estimates

Donations and Bequests

Donations and Bequests are categorised as:

Donations and Bequests for which a DGR tax receipt is issued falls under AASB 1058 and Income is recognised immediately when the funds are received.

Donations and Bequests received under a Deed of Gift agreement which contain enforceable rights and obligations and sufficiently specific performance obligations. Income is recognised under AASB 15 over time or at a point in time as the performance obligations are satisfied.

(e) Transfers to acquire or construct a non-financial asset

	Notes	Consolidated		Parent	
		2023 \$'000	2022 \$'000	2023 \$'000	2022 \$'000
Deferred Capital Grants	21	78,391	65,785	78,391	65,785

During the reporting period, income of \$72.4 million (2022: \$26.5 million) was recognised from State Government and Commonwealth Grants for acquiring or constructing non-financial assets.

(f) Volunteer services

ECU regularly receives volunteer services as part of its operations. ECU has elected to not recognise volunteer services received as income as provided for under AASB 1058 Income of not for profit entities.

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Notes to the financial statements
For the year ended 31 December 2023

3 Investment income

	Consolidated		Parent	
	2023 \$'000	2022 \$'000	2023 \$'000	2022 \$'000
Interest				
Financial assets at amortised cost	29,711	9,169	29,096	8,828
Dividends and distributions				
Equity instruments designated at fair value through other comprehensive income	614	519	-	-
Equity instruments designated at fair value through profit or loss	9,723	14,254	9,723	14,254
Rental income				
Rental income from investment properties	1,481	1,552	1,481	1,552
Fair value gains/(losses)				
Equity instruments designated at fair value through profit or loss	22,912	(31,627)	22,912	(31,627)
Investment properties at fair value through profit or loss	(2,286)	164	(2,286)	164
Investment income gain/(losses)	62,155	(5,969)	60,926	(6,829)

Accounting policy

Interest

Interest revenue is recognised on an accrual basis taking into account the interest rates applicable to the financial assets.

Dividends

Dividends and distribution revenue from investments are recognised when (a) the University's right to receive the payment is established, which is generally when shareholders approve the dividend, (b) it is probable that the economic benefits associated with the dividend will flow to the entity, and (c) the amount of the dividend can be measured reliably.

Rental income

Rental income from operating leases is recognised in income on a straight-line basis over the lease term.

Change in the fair value of financial assets

Unrealised gains are determined on a net basis as the difference between the fair value and the carrying amount of an asset. Gains or loss arising from changes in the fair value of an investment property are included in the income/expense for the period in which they arise. Assets that do not meet the criteria for amortised cost or fair value through other comprehensive income are measured at fair value through profit and loss. A gain or loss on an investment that is measured at fair value through profit or loss is recognised in the income/expense for the period in which they arise.

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4 Employee related expenses

	Consolidated		Parent	
	2023 \$'000	2022 \$'000	2023 \$'000	2022 \$'000
Academic				
Salaries	108,338	101,904	108,338	101,904
Contributions to superannuation and pension schemes - funded	16,180	14,131	16,181	14,131
Payroll tax	5,792	6,971	7,267	6,723
Worker's compensation	327	293	327	293
Long service leave expense	59	(423)	59	(423)
Annual leave	2,094	514	2,121	544
Other	155	428	(1,346)	341
Total academic	132,945	123,818	132,947	123,513
Non-academic				
Salaries	120,018	113,240	119,997	112,760
Contributions to superannuation and pension schemes - funded	17,490	15,974	17,487	15,962
Payroll tax	6,136	7,796	7,679	7,512
Worker's compensation	345	392	345	391
Long service leave expense	(1,133)	(956)	(1,133)	(956)
Annual leave	1,714	758	1,709	770
Other	550	521	(989)	790
Total non-academic	145,120	137,725	145,095	137,229
Total employee related expenses	278,065	261,543	278,042	260,742

Accounting policy

Contributions to the defined contribution section of the University's superannuation fund and other independent defined contribution superannuation funds are recognised as an expense as they become payable.

Long Service Leave expense and Annual Leave Expenses represent net increase/decrease in valuations of leave balances at the end of the reporting period.

5 Repairs and maintenance

	Consolidated		Parent	
	2023 \$'000	2022 \$'000	2023 \$'000	2022 \$'000
Building maintenance	8,220	7,064	8,220	7,064
Grounds maintenance	806	573	806	573
Total repairs and maintenance	9,026	7,637	9,026	7,637

Accounting policy

Repairs and maintenance are recognised as expenses as incurred, except where they relate to the replacement of a component of an asset, in which case the carrying amount of those parts that are replaced is derecognised and the cost of the replacing part is capitalised if the recognition criteria are met. Other routine operating maintenance, repair and minor renewal costs are also recognised as expenses, as incurred.

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6 Borrowing costs

	Consolidated		Parent	
	2023	2022	2023	2022
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Interest expense on financial liabilities at amortised cost	13,418	12,801	12,720	12,801
Interest expense on lease liabilities	34	32	34	32
Less: amount capitalised	(4,520)	(971)	(4,520)	(971)
Total borrowing costs expensed	8,932	11,862	8,234	11,862

Accounting policy

Borrowing costs incurred for the construction of any qualifying asset are capitalised during the period of time that is required to complete and prepare the asset for its intended use or sale. Other borrowing costs are expensed when incurred.

For interest expense on lease liabilities, please refer to Note 18, which details the policy for lease accounting where the University is a lessee.

7 Impairment of assets

	Consolidated		Parent	
	2023	2022	2023	2022
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Impairment of receivables	404	-	400	-
Impairment of investments	-	-	40	780
Total impairment of assets	404	-	440	780

Effective 1 July 2022, the University ceased operations in the wholly-owned foreign subsidiaries of Australian Pathway Education Group Pty Ltd (APEG), Sai Sheng Business Information Consulting (Shanghai) Co. Ltd and St Stephens College (Hong Kong) Limited. Following this the recoverable amount was assessed and gave rise to impairment of the parent's investment in this subsidiary of \$0.04m in 2023 (\$0.8m in 2022). Refer to Note 28.

Accounting Policy

University assets are reviewed for impairment whenever events or changes in circumstances indicate that the carrying amount may not be recoverable. An impairment loss is recognised for the amount by which the asset's carrying amount exceeds its recoverable amount. With the exception of assets held for sale. The recoverable amount is the higher of an asset's fair value less costs of disposal or value in use. For the purposes of assessing impairment, assets are grouped at the lowest levels for which there are separately identifiable cash flows which are largely independent of the cash inflows from other assets or groups of assets (cash generating units). Non-financial assets that suffered impairment are reviewed for possible reversal of the impairment at each reporting date.

Goodwill and intangible assets that have an indefinite useful life are not subject to amortisation and are tested annually for impairment, or more frequently if events or changes in circumstances indicate that they might be impaired. Other assets are reviewed for impairment whenever events or changes in circumstances indicate that the carrying amount may not be recoverable.

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Notes to the financial statements
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8 Other expenses

	Consolidated		Parent	
	2023 \$'000	2022 \$'000	2023 \$'000	2022 \$'000
Scholarships, grants and prizes	18,278	16,102	18,278	16,102
Computing, equipment and consumables	6,575	4,963	6,575	4,963
Advertising and marketing	7,136	5,800	7,136	5,800
Promotions and sponsorships	3,005	2,068	3,005	2,068
Audit fees, bank charges, legal costs and insurance	2,215	3,578	2,112	3,440
Software maintenance and licencing	18,484	19,508	18,483	19,497
Other occupancy related costs	7,085	4,423	7,085	4,283
Library subscriptions	7,101	6,598	7,101	6,598
Printing and stationery	1,465	1,634	1,465	1,631
Professional and consulting fees	20,360	16,023	20,266	15,900
Student related expenditure	40,508	26,122	40,508	26,115
Telecommunications	500	1,343	500	1,343
Travel, entertainment, staff development and related expenses	10,547	5,754	10,547	5,744
Utilities and rates	7,345	6,467	7,345	6,472
Student Practicum and related expenses	1,998	2,201	1,998	2,201
Student accommodation outgoings	2,201	2,341	-	-
Miscellaneous	9,045	9,736	9,004	9,698
Total other expenses	163,848	134,661	161,408	131,855

Accounting policy

Expenses are applied to the income statement during the financial year in which they are incurred, on an accrual basis.

9 Income tax benefit

a) *Numerical reconciliation of income tax expense to prima facie tax payable*

	Consolidated		Parent	
	2023 \$'000	2022 \$'000	2023 \$'000	2022 \$'000
Net result before income tax:				
From continuing operations	189,736	37,902	194,180	35,460
Less: Non taxable operating results	(189,736)	(37,902)	(194,180)	(35,460)
Tax	-	-	-	-
Total income tax expense	-	-	-	-

Accounting policy

The parent entity, Edith Cowan Accommodation Holdings Pty Ltd and ECU Holdings Pty Ltd as trustee for The Edith Cowan University Hold Trust do not provide for Australian income tax as it is exempt under the provisions of Division 50 of the Income Tax Assessment Act 1997 (ITAA). In 2018, the University acquired Australian Pathway Education Group Pty Ltd (APEG), an entity to which Income Tax Assessment Act 1997 Act applies.

The income tax expense or income for the period is the tax payable/receivable on the current period's taxable income based on the national income tax rate for each jurisdiction adjusted by changes in deferred tax assets and liabilities attributable to temporary differences between the tax bases of assets and liabilities and their carrying amounts in the financial statements, and to unused tax losses.

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10 Cash and cash equivalents

	Consolidated		Parent	
	2023	2022	2023	2022
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Cash at bank	101,620	52,771	97,304	39,656
Term deposits	80,103	82,356	80,103	82,356
Cash held in imprest	17	11	17	11
Total cash and cash equivalents	181,740	135,138	177,424	122,023

a) Reconciliation to cash at the end of the year

The above figures are reconciled to cash at the end of the year as shown in the statement of cash flows as follows:

	Consolidated		Parent	
	2023	2022	2023	2022
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Unrestricted cash and cash equivalents	126,810	89,712	122,494	76,597
Restricted cash and cash equivalents	54,930	45,426	54,930	45,426
Balance as per statement of cashflows	181,740	135,138	177,424	122,023

b) Cash-at-bank and held in imprests

Cash at bank is interest bearing at variable interest rates. Refer to Note 30 Financial risk management.

c) Term deposits

The term deposits are interest bearing at variable interest rates. Refer to Note 30 Financial risk management.

d) Restricted Cash – ECU City Campus Project and Yanchep Health Centre Project

Included within cash and cash equivalents at 31 December 2023 is \$36.6 million (31 December 2022: \$29.7million) which relate to amounts held by ECU for the specific purpose of expenditure on the ECU City Campus project and Yanchep Health Centre Project. The restrictions will be in place during the construction of the ECU City Campus and Yanchep Health Centre. Also refer to Note 12 for other Restricted Assets classified as Other Financial Assets.

e) Restricted Cash – Endowment and bequest funds

Included within cash and cash equivalents at 31 December 2023 is ECU Foundation Funds of \$18.3 million (31 December 2022: \$15.8 million).

The purpose of the ECU Foundation is to hold funds received from external sources. These funds are appropriated for a variety of educational and research purposes ranging from scholarships, research, prizes and special lecture programs. The Foundation was established to aid and promote excellence in educational and research activities by seeking, receiving and administering private gifts for the benefit of the University and its community. These restricted funds are considered to be controlled by the University and are included in cash and cash equivalents.

f) Cash held in a foreign currency

Included within cash and cash equivalents at 31 December 2023 is \$1.63 million (31 December 2022: \$1.04 million) held in an overseas bank account denominated in Sri Lankan Rupee.

Accounting Policy

Cash and cash equivalents

For statement of cash flows presentation purposes, cash and cash equivalents includes cash on hand and short-term deposits with financial institutions with original maturities of three months or less that are readily convertible to known amounts of cash and which are subject to an insignificant risk of changes in value.

Restricted funds

Endowment and bequest funds: Endowment and bequest funds have been received from benefactors who, by the terms of their conveying instruments, have stipulated that the use of funds is limited in future years to the purposes designated by the benefactors.

ECU City Campus Project: WA State Government and Commonwealth capital grants for the ECU City Campus Project are classified as restricted funds. WA State Government and Commonwealth capital grants have been received and by the terms of their contractual agreement with ECU, have stipulated that the use of funds is limited in future years to expenditure relating to the ECU City Campus Project.

Foreign Exchange

Cash and cash equivalents held in a foreign currency are translated to Australian currency at the closing rate of exchange at the balance sheet date.

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11 Receivables and contract assets

	Notes	Consolidated		Parent	
		2023 \$'000	2022 \$'000	2023 \$'000	2022 \$'000
Current					
Trade receivables and student debts		10,747	12,092	11,125	12,325
Less: Allowance for expected credit losses		(874)	(639)	(872)	(639)
		<u>9,873</u>	<u>11,453</u>	<u>10,253</u>	<u>11,686</u>
Deferred government benefit for superannuation	34	1,955	2,012	1,955	2,012
GST and withholding tax receivable		5,846	6,152	5,842	6,150
Total current receivables		<u>17,674</u>	<u>19,617</u>	<u>18,050</u>	<u>19,848</u>
Non-current					
Deferred government benefit for superannuation	34	11,580	13,187	11,580	13,187
Total non-current receivables		<u>11,580</u>	<u>13,187</u>	<u>11,580</u>	<u>13,187</u>
Total trade and other receivables		<u>29,254</u>	<u>32,804</u>	<u>29,630</u>	<u>33,035</u>

A receivable represents the University's right to an amount of consideration that is unconditional (i.e. only the passage of time is required before payment of the consideration is due).

Refer to Note 12 Other financial assets for a detailed accounting policy for financial assets.

Impaired receivables

Set out below is the movement in the allowance for expected credit losses of trade receivables and contract assets:

	Consolidated		Parent	
	2023 \$'000	2022 \$'000	2023 \$'000	2022 \$'000
Balance at 1 January	639	1,444	639	1,443
Provision for Expected Credit Losses				
Provision for Expected Credit Losses	347	(560)	345	(559)
Written off during the year	(112)	(245)	(112)	(245)
Amounts recovered during the year		-		-
Balance at 31 December	<u>874</u>	<u>639</u>	<u>872</u>	<u>639</u>

Accounting Policy

Classification and measurement

Trade receivables are held to collect contractual cash flows and give rise to cash flows representing solely payments of principal and interest. At initial recognition trade receivables are measured at their transaction price and subsequently these are classified and measured as debt instruments at amortised cost. Trade receivables are due for settlement no more than 120 days from the date of recognition for land development and resale debtors, and no more than 30 days for other debtors.

Impairment

For trade receivables and contract assets the University applies a simplified approach in calculating expected credit losses ("ECLs").

Therefore, the University does not track changes in credit risk, but instead recognises a loss allowance based on lifetime ECLs at each reporting date. The University has established a provision matrix that is based on its historical credit loss experience, adjusted for forward-looking factors specific to the debtors and the economic environment.

Edith Cowan University
Notes to the financial statements
For the year ended 31 December 2023

12 Other financial assets

	Consolidated		Parent	
	2023 \$'000	2022 \$'000	2023 \$'000	2022 \$'000
Current				
Financial assets at fair value through other comprehensive income				
Derivative financial instruments	-	120	-	120
Financial assets at amortised cost				
Fixed term deposits	482,487	515,099	482,486	514,860
Financial assets designated at fair value through profit or loss				
Funds under management	97,755	90,670	97,755	90,670
Total current other financial assets	580,242	605,889	580,241	605,650
Non-current				
Financial assets at fair value through other comprehensive income				
Derivative financial instruments	1	-	-	-
Listed shares	18,451	50,090	-	-
Unlisted shares	9,147	6,951	5,720	5,532
Financial assets designated at fair value through profit or loss				
Funds under management	283,201	248,599	283,201	248,599
Financial assets at amortised cost				
Loans to Associates	366	-	-	-
Total non-current other financial assets	311,166	305,640	288,921	254,131
Total other financial assets	891,408	911,529	869,162	859,781

Restricted other financial assets

	Consolidated		Parent	
	2023 \$'000	2022 \$'000	2023 \$'000	2022 \$'000
Restricted and Unrestricted Financial Assets				
Unrestricted Financial Assets	749,603	761,354	727,357	709,606
Restricted Financial Assets	141,805	150,175	141,805	150,175
	891,408	911,529	869,162	859,781

At 31 December 2023, ECU held financial assets subject to restrictions of \$141.8 million (2022: \$150.2 million). These amounts relate to grants from the Commonwealth and WA State Government for the construction of the ECU City Campus and Yanchep Health Centre.

Edith Cowan University
Notes to the financial statements
For the year ended 31 December 2023

12 Other financial assets (continued)

Accounting policy

Financial assets at fair value through profit or loss (including designated)

Financial assets at fair value through profit or loss principally comprise non derivative financial assets with fixed or determinable payments and fixed maturities and investments in asset management companies (funds under management). They are included in non-current assets unless the maturity date of the asset is within twelve months of the reporting date. Financial assets at fair value through profit or loss are initially recognised at fair value, with subsequent increases or decreases in fair value recognised in profit or loss. Refer to Note 3 Investment income.

Transaction costs incurred in the acquisition of financial assets at fair value through profit or loss are recognised as expenses in the income statement in the period in which they are incurred.

Financial assets at fair value through other comprehensive income

Financial assets at fair value through other comprehensive income principally comprise marketable equity securities. They are included in non-current assets unless management intends to dispose of the investment within 12 months of the end of the reporting period. Investments are initially recognised at fair value plus transaction costs with subsequent increases or decreases in fair value recognised in equity. Refer to Note 22 Reserves and retained earnings.

Financial assets at amortised cost

Financial assets are held for the objective of collecting contractual cash inflows on specific dates and those cash flows are generally in the form of principal and/or interest. Loan and receivables are included in current assets, except for those with maturities greater than 12 months after the end of the reporting period which are classified as non-current assets.

Fair Value

The fair values of investments and other financial assets are based on quoted prices in an active market. If the market for a financial asset is not active (as for unlisted shares), the University establishes fair value by using valuation techniques that maximise the use of relevant market data. These include references to the estimated price in an orderly transaction that would take place between market participants at the measurement date. Other valuation techniques used are the cost approach and the income approach based on characteristics of the asset and the assumptions made by market participants.

Derecognition

A financial asset (or, where applicable, a part of a financial asset or part of a group of similar financial assets) is primarily derecognised (i.e. removed from the University's consolidated statement of financial position) when:

- The rights to receive cash flows from the asset have expired or
- The University has transferred its rights to receive cash flows from the asset or has assumed an obligation to pay the received cash flows in full without material delay to a third party under a 'pass-through' arrangement; and either (a) the University has transferred substantially all the risks and rewards of the asset, or (b) the University has neither transferred nor retained substantially all the risks and rewards of the asset, but has transferred control of the asset.

When the University has transferred its rights to receive cash flows from an asset or has entered into a pass-through arrangement, it evaluates if, and to what extent, it has retained the risks and rewards of ownership.

When it has neither transferred nor retained substantially all the risks and rewards of the asset, nor transferred control of the asset, the University continues to recognise the transferred asset to the extent of its continuing involvement. In that case, the University also recognises an associated liability. The transferred asset and the associated liability are measured on a basis that reflects the rights and obligations that the University has retained.

Continuing involvement that takes the form of a guarantee over the transferred asset is measured at the lower of the original carrying amount of the asset and the maximum amount of consideration that the University could be required to repay.

Edith Cowan University
Notes to the financial statements
For the year ended 31 December 2023

13 Other non-financial assets

	Consolidated		Parent	
	2023	2022	2023	2022
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Current				
Accrued income	27,253	5,223	3,931	4,678
Advances and prepayments	16,654	12,564	16,655	12,563
Total current non-financial assets	43,907	17,787	20,586	17,241
Non-current				
Other non-financial assets	858	958	858	958
Total non-current non-financial assets	858	958	858	958
Total other non-financial assets	44,765	18,745	21,444	18,199

Accrued income includes franking credits receivable of \$22.8m relating to franking credits receivable on the fully franked in specie dividend of IDP Education Limited (IDP) shares, as part of the wind up of the Group's investment in Education Australia Limited (EAL). The Group recognised this amount as it considered that the franking credit tax offsets are refundable under Division 67 of the Income Tax Assessment Act 1997. The Group sought legal advice on this matter which confirmed that the Company has a valid claim.

The ATO issued a Notice of Assessment disputing the validity of the Group's claim for the refund of the franking credits under section 207-112 of the ITAA97. The Group has received legal advice following the receipt of the ATO Tax Assessment and the Group's view, supported by legal advice, remains that it is entitled to receive the franking credits refund (assessed as probable). At the date of this report, the legal advisor has formally objected to the Tax Assessment issued by the ATO.

Accounting policy

Prepayments and other non-financial assets are recognised when amounts have been paid in advance and do not yet meet expense recognition requirements.

Accrued income is recognised when the University has not yet received payment for goods or services provided as well as amounts refundable.

14 Investment properties

	Consolidated		Parent	
	2023	2022	2023	2022
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
At fair value				
Opening balance at 1 January	21,083	20,919	21,083	20,919
Additions	653	-	653	-
Gain/(Loss) on revaluation	(2,286)	164	(2,286)	164
Closing balance as at 31 December	19,450	21,083	19,450	21,083

For fair value hierarchy categorisation of investment properties see Note 31 Fair value measurements.

a) *Amounts recognised in Income Statement for investment properties*

	Consolidated		Parent	
	2023	2022	2023	2022
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Rental income	1,481	1,552	1,481	1,552
Direct operating expenses	(481)	(424)	(481)	(424)
Gain/(Loss) on revaluation	(2,286)	164	(2,286)	164
Total recognised in Income Statement	(1,286)	1,292	(1,286)	1,292

Accounting policy

Investment properties exclude properties held to meet service delivery objectives of the University.

Investment properties are initially recognised at cost. Costs incurred subsequent to initial acquisition are capitalised when it is probable that future economic benefits in excess of the originally assessed performance of the asset will flow to the University.

Where an investment property is acquired at no cost or for nominal consideration, its cost shall be deemed to be its fair value as at the date of acquisition.

Edith Cowan University
Notes to the financial statements
For the year ended 31 December 2023

14 Investment properties (continued)

Subsequent to initial recognition at cost, investment property is carried at fair value, which is based on active market prices of similar properties, adjusted if necessary, for any difference in the nature, location or condition of the specific asset. If this information is not available, the University uses alternative valuation methods such as recent prices in less active markets or discounted cash flow projections. These valuations are reviewed annually by a member of the Australian Property Institute. Changes in fair values are recorded in the income statement.

Rental revenue from the leasing of investment properties is recognised in the income statement in the periods in which it is receivable, as this represents the pattern of service rendered through the provision of the properties. Gains arising from changes in the fair value of an investment property are included in income for the period in which they arise.

15 Investments accounted for using the equity method

a) *Associates*

Name of entity	Country of incorporation	Carrying amount		Ownership interest		Principal activity
		2023 \$'000	2022 \$'000	2023 %	2022 %	
Sapien Cyber Limited	Australia	-	-	21	26	Provider of cyber security services

b) *Joint Ventures*

Name of entity	Country of incorporation	Carrying amount		Ownership interest		Principal activity
		2023 \$'000	2022 \$'000	2023 %	2022 %	
Edith Cowan College Pty Ltd	Australia	1,797	526		50	Provider of university pathway programs

c) *Individually immaterial associate and joint ventures*

	Associates		Joint ventures	
	2023 \$'000	2022 \$'000	2023 \$'000	2022 \$'000
Profit/(loss) from continuing operations	-	-	4,200	1,226
Total comprehensive income	-	-	4,200	1,226

Aggregate carrying amount of interests in the joint venture accounted for using the equity method that are not individually material in the consolidated financial statements:

Accounting policy

Associates

Associates are all entities over which the University has significant influence but not control. Investments in associates are accounted for in the parent entity financial statements using the cost method or the equity method, and in the consolidated financial statements using the equity method of accounting, after initially being recognised at cost. The University's investment in associates includes goodwill (net of any accumulated impairment loss) identified on acquisition.

The University's share of its associates' post-acquisition profits or losses is recognised in the income statement, and its share of post-acquisition movements in reserves is recognised in reserves. The cumulative post-acquisition movements are adjusted against the carrying amount of the investment. Dividends receivable from associates are recognised in the parent entity's income statement, while in the consolidated financial statements they reduce the carrying amount of the investment.

Gains or losses resulting from 'upstream' and 'downstream' transactions, involving assets that do not constitute a business, are recognised in the parent's financial statements only to the extent of unrelated investors' interests in the associate or joint venture. Gains or losses resulting from the contribution of non-monetary assets in exchange for an equity interest are accounted for in the same method.

When the University's share of losses in an associate equal or exceeds its interest in the associate, including any other unsecured receivables, the University does not recognise further losses, unless it has incurred obligations or made payments on behalf of the associate.

Edith Cowan University
Notes to the financial statements
For the year ended 31 December 2023

15 Investments accounted for using the equity method (continued)

Joint ventures

Investments in joint arrangements are classified as either joint operations or joint ventures depending on the contractual rights and obligations each investor has, rather than the legal structure of the joint arrangement.

The interest in a joint venture entity is accounted for in the consolidated financial statements using the equity method and is carried at cost by the parent entity. Under the equity method, the share of the profits or losses of the entity is recognised in the income statement, and the share of movements in reserves is recognised in reserves in the statement of comprehensive income and the statement of changes in equity.

Critical accounting estimates and judgements

The most recent available financial statements of the associate or joint venture are used by the University in applying the equity method. When the financial statements of the associate or joint venture are prepared as of a date different from that used by the University, or are not available, the University estimates the effects of significant transactions or events that occur from the date of these financial statements when equity accounting for these investments.

Edith Cowan University
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For the year ended 31 December 2023

16 Property plant and equipment

	Work in progress \$'000	Land \$'000	Buildings \$'000	Leasehold Improvements \$'000	Artworks \$'000	Library Collections \$'000	Motor vehicles \$'000	Other equipment and furniture \$'000	Computer equipment \$'000	Subtotal property, plant and equipment \$'000	Right of use assets \$'000	Total \$'000
Consolidated												
As at 1 January 2022												
Cost	11,330	221,189	532,330	2,503	15,336	259	115	11,105	1,370	795,537	626	796,163
Valuation										-		-
Accumulated depreciation										-		-
Net book amount	11,330	221,189	532,330	2,503	15,336	259	115	11,105	1,370	795,537	626	796,163
Year ended 31 December 2022												
Opening net book amount	11,330	221,189	532,330	2,503	15,336	259	115	11,105	1,370	795,537	626	796,163
Additions	67,009	2,200	3,200	-	1	12	47	652	6	73,127	994	74,121
Disposals during the year	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	(2)	-	(2)	-	(2)
Revaluation increments	-	4,341	48,649	188	-	-	-	-	-	53,178	-	53,178
Depreciation charge	-	-	(17,832)	(626)	-	(98)	(54)	(3,865)	(665)	(23,140)	(710)	(23,850)
Transfers	(1,182)	-	460	-	-	-	18	474	230	-	-	-
Reclassifications	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	16	(16)	-	-	-
Closing net book amount	77,157	227,730	566,807	2,065	15,337	173	126	8,380	925	898,700	910	899,610
As at 31 December 2022												
Cost	77,157	-	-	-	53	13,978	1,030	61,328	6,741	160,287	3,288	163,575
Valuation	-	227,730	566,807	2,065	15,284	-	-	-	-	811,886	-	811,886
Accumulated depreciation	-	-	-	-	-	(13,805)	(904)	(52,948)	(5,816)	(73,473)	(2,378)	(75,851)
Net book amount	77,157	227,730	566,807	2,065	15,337	173	126	8,380	925	898,700	910	899,610

Edith Cowan University
Notes to the financial statements
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16 Property plant and equipment (continued)

	Work in progress \$'000	Land \$'000	Buildings \$'000	Leasehold Improvements \$'000	Artworks \$'000	Library Collections \$'000	Motor vehicles \$'000	Other equipment and furniture \$'000	Computer equipment \$'000	Subtotal property, plant and equipment \$'000	Right of use assets \$'000	Total \$'000
Consolidated												
Year ended 31 December 2023												
Opening net book amount	77,157	227,730	566,807	2,065	15,337	173	126	8,380	925	898,700	910	899,610
Additions	168,990	-	-	-	18	-	-	2,597	104	171,709	162	171,871
Disposals during the year	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Revaluation increments	-	(6,857)	7,845	-	-	-	-	-	-	988	-	988
Depreciation charge	-	-	(19,713)	(688)	-	(70)	(39)	(3,797)	(1,349)	(25,656)	(303)	(25,959)
Transfers	(11,383)	-	8,164	-	-	-	-	1,030	2,189	-	-	-
Closing net book amount	234,764	220,873	563,103	1,377	15,355	103	87	8,210	1,869	1,045,741	769	1,046,510
As at 31 December 2023												
Cost	234,764	-	-	-	71	13,978	1,030	64,955	9,034	323,832	1,510	325,342
Valuation	-	220,873	563,103	1,377	15,284	-	-	-	-	800,637	-	800,637
Accumulated depreciation	-	-	-	-	-	(13,875)	(943)	(56,745)	(7,165)	(78,728)	(741)	(79,469)
Net book amount	234,764	220,873	563,103	1,377	15,355	103	87	8,210	1,869	1,045,741	769	1,046,510

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16 Property plant and equipment (continued)

	Work in progress \$'000	Land \$'000	Buildings \$'000	Leasehold Improvements \$'000	Artworks \$'000	Library Collections \$'000	Motor vehicles \$'000	Other equipment and furniture \$'000	Computer equipment \$'000	Subtotal property, plant and equipment \$'000	Right of use assets \$'000	Total \$'000
Parent												
As at 1 January 2022												
Cost	11,330	221,189	532,330	2,503	15,336	259	115	10,697	1,358	795,117	625	795,742
Valuation										-		-
Accumulated depreciation										-		-
Net book amount	11,330	221,189	532,330	2,503	15,336	259	115	10,697	1,358	795,117	625	795,742
Year ended 31 December 2022												
Opening net book amount	11,330	221,189	532,330	2,503	15,336	259	115	10,697	1,358	795,117	625	795,742
Additions	67,009	2,200	3,200	-	1	12	30	538	5	72,995	994	73,989
Disposals during the year	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	(2)	-	(2)	-	(2)
Revaluation increments	-	4,341	48,648	188	-	-	-	-	-	53,177	-	53,177
Depreciation charge	-	-	(17,831)	(626)	-	(98)	(53)	(3,759)	(658)	(23,025)	(709)	(23,734)
Transfers	(1,182)	-	460	-	-	-	18	474	230	-	-	-
Reclassifications	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	16	(16)	-	-	-
Closing net book amount	77,157	227,730	566,807	2,065	15,337	173	110	7,964	919	898,262	910	899,172
As at 31 December 2022												
Cost	77,157	-	-	-	28	13,978	1,013	59,647	6,584	158,407	3,280	161,687
Valuation	-	227,730	566,807	2,065	15,309	-	-	-	-	811,911	-	811,911
Accumulated depreciation	-	-	-	-	-	(13,805)	(903)	(51,683)	(5,665)	(72,056)	(2,370)	(74,426)
Net book amount	77,157	227,730	566,807	2,065	15,337	173	110	7,964	919	898,262	910	899,172

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For the year ended 31 December 2023

16 Property plant and equipment (continued)

	Work in progress \$'000	Land \$'000	Buildings \$'000	Leasehold Improvements \$'000	Artworks \$'000	Library Collections \$'000	Motor vehicles \$'000	Other equipment and furniture \$'000	Computer equipment \$'000	Subtotal property, plant and equipment \$'000	Right of use assets \$'000	Total \$'000
Parent												
Year ended 31 December 2023												
Opening net book amount	77,157	227,730	566,807	2,065	15,337	173	110	7,964	919	898,262	910	899,172
Additions	168,990	-	-	-	18	-	-	2,189	104	171,301	162	171,463
Disposals during the year	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Revaluation increments	-	(6,857)	7,845	-	-	-	-	-	-	988	-	988
Depreciation charge	-	-	(19,713)	(688)	-	(70)	(37)	(3,652)	(1,343)	(25,503)	(303)	(25,806)
Transfers	(11,383)	-	8,164	-	-	-	-	1,030	2,189	-	-	-
Closing net book amount	234,764	220,873	563,103	1,377	15,355	103	73	7,531	1,869	1,045,048	769	1,045,817
As at 31 December 2023												
Cost	234,764	-	-	-	46	13,978	1,013	62,866	8,877	321,544	1,193	322,737
Valuation	-	220,873	563,103	1,377	15,309	-	-	-	-	800,662	-	800,662
Accumulated depreciation	-	-	-	-	-	(13,875)	(940)	(55,335)	(7,008)	(77,158)	(424)	(77,582)
Net book amount	234,764	220,873	563,103	1,377	15,355	103	73	7,531	1,869	1,045,048	769	1,045,817

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Notes to the financial statements
For the year ended 31 December 2023

16 Property plant and equipment (continued)

Accounting Policy

Land and buildings, leasehold improvements and artworks are shown at fair value less subsequent depreciation for buildings and leasehold improvements. Land, buildings, and leasehold improvements are revalued periodically at least triennially by an external independent valuer. Artworks are revalued periodically at least every five years. Any accumulated depreciation at the date of revaluation is eliminated against the gross carrying amount of the asset and the net amount is restated to the revalued amount of the asset.

All other property, plant and equipment are stated at historical cost less depreciation. Historical cost includes expenditure that is directly attributable to the acquisition of the items. Cost may also include gains or losses that were recognised in other comprehensive income on qualifying cash flow hedges of foreign currency purchases of property, plant and equipment. For items of property, plant and equipment acquired at no cost or for nominal cost, cost is their fair value at the date of acquisition. Items of property, plant and equipment (excluding artworks) costing less than \$5,000 are expensed to the income statement.

Subsequent costs are included in the asset's carrying amount or recognised as a separate asset, as appropriate, only when it is probable that future economic benefits associated with the item will flow to the University and the cost of the item can be measured reliably. All other repairs and maintenance are charged to the income statement during the financial period in which they are incurred.

Increases in the carrying amounts arising on revaluation of land and buildings are recognised, net of tax, in other comprehensive income and accumulated in equity under the heading of revaluation reserve. To the extent that the increase reverses a decrease previously recognised in profit or loss, the increase is first recognised in profit or loss. Decreases that reverse previous increases of the same asset class are also recognised in other comprehensive income to the extent of the remaining reserve attributable to the asset class. All other decreases are charged to the income statement.

On derecognition, any accumulated surplus on revaluation is transferred from revaluation to retained earnings.

Leasehold improvements

Leasehold improvements are capitalised at amounts directly attributable to bringing the asset to the location and condition necessary for it to be capable of operating in the manner intended for the University.

Construction work in progress

Construction work in progress is stated at the aggregate of contract costs incurred to date plus recognised profits less recognised losses and progress billings. If there are contracts where progress billings exceed the aggregate costs incurred plus profits less losses, the net amounts are presented under other liabilities.

Contract costs include all costs directly related to specific contracts, costs that are specifically chargeable to the customer under the terms of the contract and costs that are attributable to contract activity in general and can be allocated to the contract.

Depreciation

Land and artworks are not depreciated.

Artworks are considered as heritage assets and are anticipated to have very long and indefinite useful lives. Their service potential has not, in any material sense, been consumed during the reporting period. As such no amount for depreciation has been recognised in respect of these artworks.

Leasehold improvements are depreciated over the shorter of the lease term or the assets useful life. Where lease arrangements contain options for renewal and extension of the lease term, such extensions are only taken into account for the purposes of determining an appropriate depreciation period when, at inception of the lease, it is reasonably certain that the University will exercise the option.

Depreciation on other assets is calculated using the straight-line method to allocate their cost or revalued amounts, net of their residual values, over their estimated useful lives, as follows:

Depreciable assets

	Estimated useful life
Buildings	27 – 60 years
Motor vehicles	4 – 6 years
Computer equipment	3 – 4 years
Other equipment and furniture	6 years
Library collections	5 years
Right-of-use assets	3 -5 years

Valuations

In 2023 an independent professional valuation was performed for Land, Buildings, and Investment Properties using a combination of Market Approach, Income Approach and Cost Approach (specialised buildings).

Artworks are heritage assets and have been valued in February 2019 by independent professional valuers, the fair value of artworks will be determined by reference to recent market transactions. Artwork is revalued every three to five years which provides sufficient regularity to ensure the carrying amount does not differ materially from that which would be determined using fair value at the end of the reporting period. The next valuation will be performed in February 2024.

Edith Cowan University
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16 Property plant and equipment (continued)

Mount Lawley Land, Buildings and Leasehold Improvements

Mount Lawley land, buildings and leasehold improvements held by the University are designated to be transferred to the WA state Government pursuant to a funding agreement with respect to the construction of the City Campus in the Perth CBD. The University is currently scheduled to vacate the campus and hand back control to the State by the end of 2027.

Edith Cowan University will develop a Creative Industries, Business and Technology Campus in the centre of Perth, as part of a transformational deal for the University. As part of the changes associated with the new campus, ECU intends withdrawing from its Mount Lawley campus. The Federal Government has committed capital funding towards this project as part of the Perth City Deal. In 2021, the State Government provided the land for the campus development at Perth City Link in the Perth Central Business District and a cash grant of \$100 million which will recompense the University for the assets at the Mount Lawley Campus being handed over to the WA State Government on completion of the project.

Transiting from Mount Lawley campus to the City Campus has been reflected in assessments of fair value and remaining useful lives of land, buildings and leasehold improvements. Other financial impacts of the project (including the recognition of proceeds, grant income and the construction of the City Campus) commenced in 2021 and will continue in future periods.

16.1 Right-of-use assets

Information about leases where the University is a lessee is presented below:

	Consolidated		Parent	
	2023	2022	2023	2022
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Right-of-use assets				
As at 1 January	910	626	910	625
Addition of right-of-use assets	162	994	162	994
Depreciation charges	(303)	(710)	(303)	(709)
As at 31 December	769	910	769	910

Accounting Policy

Assessment of whether a contract is, or contains, a lease

At inception of a contract, the University assesses whether a contract is, or contains a lease. A contract is or contains a lease if the contract conveys a right to control the use of an identified asset for a period of time in exchange for consideration.

The University assesses whether:

- (a) The contract involves the use of an identified asset – The asset may be explicitly or implicitly specified in the contract. A capacity portion of larger assets is considered an identified asset if the portion is physically distinct or if the portion represents substantially all the capacity of the asset. The asset is not considered an identified asset if the supplier has the substantive right to substitute the asset throughout the period of use.
- (b) The customer has the right to obtain substantially all of the economic benefits from the use of the asset throughout the period of use.
- (c) The customer has the right to direct the use of the asset throughout the period of use – The customer is considered to have the right to direct the use of the asset only if either:
 - a. The customer has the right to direct how and for what purpose the identified asset is used throughout the period of use; or
 - b. The relevant decisions about how and for what purposes the asset is used is predetermined and the customer has the right to operate the asset, or the customer designed the asset in a way that predetermines how and for what purpose the asset will be used throughout the period of use.

Accounting for leases – The University as lessee

In contracts where the University is a lessee, the University recognises a right-of-use asset and a lease liability at the commencement date of the lease, unless the short-term or low-value exemption is applied.

Right-of-use asset

A right-of-use asset is initially measured at cost comprising the initial measurement of the lease liability adjusted for any lease payments made before the commencement date (reduced by lease incentives received), plus initial direct costs incurred in obtaining the lease and an estimate of costs to be incurred in dismantling and removing the underlying asset, restoring the site on which it is located or restoring the underlying asset to the condition required by the terms and conditions of the lease, unless those costs are incurred to produce inventories.

A right-of-use asset associated with land and buildings is measured at cost. All other property, plant and equipment are measured as described in the accounting policy for property, plant and equipment in Note 16 Property plant and equipment.

The University has elected to measure a class (or classes) of right-of-use assets arising under 'concessionary leases' at initial recognition at cost, in accordance with AASB16 paragraphs 23 to 25, which incorporates the amount of the initial measurement of the lease liability.

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17 Trade and other payables

	Consolidated		Parent	
	2023	2022	2023	2022
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Current				
OS-HELP liability to Australian Government	2,053	205	2,053	205
Trade creditors	30,110	24,988	54,597	48,387
CGS and other liabilities to Australian Government	17,373	4,079	17,373	4,079
GST payable	481	276	476	270
Total current trade and other payables	50,017	29,548	74,499	52,941

The fair value of trade and other payables is equal to their carrying value.

a) Foreign currency risk

The carrying amounts of the University's trade and other payables are denominated in the following currencies.

	Consolidated		Parent	
	2023	2022	2023	2022
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Australian Dollar	49,903	28,924	74,385	52,318
Euro	27	254	27	254
Great British Pound	-	10	-	10
US Dollar	87	353	87	353
NZ Dollar	-	6	-	6
Hong Kong Dollar	-	1	-	-
	50,017	29,548	74,499	52,941

For an analysis of the sensitivity of trade and other payables to foreign currency risk refer to note 31 Fair value measurements.

	Consolidated		Parent Entity	
	2023	2022	2023	2022
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Contract liabilities				
Current contract liabilities	20,670	17,710	20,670	17,710
Total contract liabilities	20,670	17,710	20,670	17,710

Accounting Policy

These amounts represent liabilities for goods and services provided to the University prior to the end of financial year, which are unpaid. Accounts payable are not interest bearing and are stated at their nominal value. The amounts are unsecured and are usually paid within 30 days of recognition.

Edith Cowan University
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18 Borrowings

	Consolidated		Parent	
	2023 \$'000	2022 \$'000	2023 \$'000	2022 \$'000
Current				
Secured loans	1,920	1,849	1,920	1,849
Lease liabilities	273	267	273	267
	2,193	2,116	2,193	2,116
Non-current				
Secured loans	31,218	33,137	31,218	33,137
Lease liabilities	551	667	551	667
Unsecured medium term notes	369,264	369,168	369,264	369,168
	401,033	402,972	401,033	402,972
Total borrowings	403,226	405,088	403,226	405,088

On 15 July 2021, the University issued \$100 million of AUD Fixed Rate Medium Term Notes with a 3.4% per annum coupon rate and a settlement date of 15 July 2041 and \$150 million of AUD Fixed Rate Medium Term Notes with a 2.741% per annum coupon rate and a settlement date of 15 July 2033. Interest is paid semi-annually and any interest accrued is reported as part of Note 21 Other Liabilities.

a) *Financing arrangements*

Restricted access was available at balance date to the following lines of credit:

	Consolidated		Parent	
	2023 \$'000	2022 \$'000	2023 \$'000	2022 \$'000
Credit standby arrangements				
Total credit standby arrangements				
Loan facilities	120,000	120,000	120,000	120,000
Used at balance date				
Loan facilities	33,138	34,986	33,138	34,986
Unused at balance date				
Loan facilities	86,862	85,014	86,862	85,014

b) *Fair value*

The carrying amounts and fair values of borrowings at reporting date are:

	2023		2022	
	Carrying amount \$'000	Fair value \$'000	Carrying amount \$'000	Fair value \$'000
Consolidated Borrowings				
Secured loans	33,138	31,927	34,986	33,007
Unsecured medium term notes	369,264	369,264	369,168	369,168
Lease liabilities	824	824	934	934
	403,226	402,015	405,088	403,109
Parent Borrowings				
Secured loans	33,138	31,927	34,986	33,007
Unsecured medium term notes	369,264	369,264	369,168	369,168
Lease liabilities	824	824	934	934
	403,226	402,015	405,088	403,109

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Notes to the financial statements
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18 Borrowings (continued)

c) *Risk exposures*

The exposure of the University's borrowings to interest rate changes and the contractual repricing dates at the reporting dates are as follows:

	Consolidated		Parent	
	2023 \$'000	2022 \$'000	2023 \$'000	2022 \$'000
Within one year	2,193	2,116	2,193	2,116
Between one and five years	7,313	8,798	7,313	8,798
Later than five years	393,720	394,174	393,720	394,174
	403,226	405,088	403,226	405,088
These borrowings are classified as follows:				
Current borrowings	2,193	2,116	2,193	2,116
Non-current borrowings	401,033	402,972	401,033	402,972
	403,226	405,088	403,226	405,088

For an analysis of the sensitivity of borrowings to interest rate risk refer to Note 30 Financial risk management.

Reconciliation of liabilities arising from financing activities

	2022 \$'000	Cash flows \$'000	Non-cash changes - Other \$'000	2023 \$'000
Long-term borrowings	402,972	-	(1,939)	401,033
Short-term borrowings	2,116	(2,120)	2,197	2,193
	405,088	(2,120)	258	403,226

Accounting policy

Borrowings are initially recognised at fair value, net of transaction costs incurred. Borrowings are subsequently measured at amortised cost. Any difference between the proceeds (net of transaction costs) and the redemption amount is recognised in the income statement over the period of the borrowings using the effective interest method.

Borrowings are removed from the statement of financial position when the obligation specified in the contract is discharged, cancelled or expired. The difference between the carrying amount of a financial liability that has been extinguished or transferred to another party and the consideration paid, including any non-cash assets transferred or liabilities assumed, is recognised in other income or other expenses.

Borrowings are classified as current liabilities unless the University has an unconditional right to defer settlement of the liability for at least 12 months after the end of the reporting period and does not expect to settle the liability for at least 12 months after the end of the reporting period.

The fair value of borrowings have been prepared assuming hypothetical settlement dates of 31 December 2022 and 31 December 2023.

Assets pledged as security

The University has not directly pledged any assets as security against the borrowings. The borrowings are secured by the Western Australian Government guarantee.

18.1 The University as lessee

Amounts recognised in the income statement

	Consolidated		Parent	
	2023 \$'000	2022 \$'000	2023 \$'000	2022 \$'000
Interest of lease liabilities	34	32	34	32
Depreciation on right of use assets	303	710	303	709
Expenses relating to short-term leases	110	206	110	102
Expenses relating to leases of low-value assets, excluding short term leases of low-value assets	2,320	2,386	2,320	2,386
Subtotal	2,767	3,334	2,767	3,229

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18 Borrowings (continued)

Maturity analysis – undiscounted contractual cash flows

	Consolidated		Parent	
	2023 \$'000	2022 \$'000	2023 \$'000	2022 \$'000
Less than one year	273	267	273	267
One to five years	551	667	551	667
Total undiscounted contractual cash flows	824	934	824	934
Lease liabilities recognised in the statement of financial position				
Current	273	267	273	267
Non-current	551	667	551	667
	824	934	824	934

Nature of leasing activities

ECU has lease arrangements for buildings, vehicles and network equipment ranging from two to five years in length.

Potential exposure to future cash flows not reflected in the measurement of lease liability.

Amounts recognised in statement of cash flows

	Consolidated		Parent	
	2023 \$'000	2022 \$'000	2023 \$'000	2022 \$'000
Total cash outflow for leases	(271)	(735)	(271)	(735)

Accounting policy

Lease liabilities – The University as lessee

Policy on assessment of whether a contract is, or contains, a lease is detailed in Note 16.1 Right-of-use assets.

Lease liability

A lease liability is initially measured at the present value of unpaid lease payments at the commencement date of the lease. To calculate the present value, the unpaid lease payments are discounted using the interest rate implicit in the lease if the rate is readily determinable. If the interest rate implicit in the lease cannot be readily determined, the incremental borrowing rate at the commencement date of the lease is used. Lease payments included in the measurement of lease liabilities comprise:

- Fixed payments, including in-substance fixed payments;
- Variable lease payments that depend on an index or a rate, initially measured using the index or rate as at the commencement date (e.g. payments varying on account of changes in CPI); and
- Amounts expected to be payable by the lessee under residual value guarantees
- Payments of penalties for terminating the lease, if the lease term reflects the lessee exercising an option to terminate the lease.

For a contract that contains a lease component and one or more additional lease or non-lease components, the University allocates the consideration in the contract to each lease component based on the relative stand-alone price of the lease component and the aggregate stand-alone price of the non-lease components.

Subsequently, the lease liability is measured at amortised cost using the effective interest rate method resulting in interest expense being recognised as a borrowing cost in the income statement. The lease liability is remeasured when there are changes in future lease payments arising from a change in an index or rate with a corresponding adjustment to the right-of-use asset. The adjustment amount is factored into depreciation of the right-of-use asset prospectively.

Right-of-use assets are presented within property, plant and equipment in Note 16 and lease liabilities are presented as borrowings in Note 18.

Short-term leases and leases of low-value assets

The University has elected not to recognise right-of-use assets and lease liabilities for short-term leases i.e. leases with a lease term of 12 months or less and leases of low-value assets i.e., when the value of the leased asset when new is \$5,000 or less. The University recognises the lease payments associated with these leases as an expense on a straight-line basis over the lease term.

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19 Other financial liabilities

	Consolidated		Parent	
	2023	2022	2023	2022
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Current				
Financial liabilities at fair value through other comprehensive income				
Derivative financial instruments	200	-	200	-

Accounting Policy

The University is a party to derivative financial instruments in the normal course of business in order to hedge exposure to fluctuations in foreign exchange rates in accordance with the University's financial risk management policies (refer to Note 30 Financial risk management).

In order to protect against exchange rate movements, the University has entered into a forward exchange contract to purchase foreign currency.

These contracts are hedging obligations for payments for the ensuing financial year. The contracts are timed to mature when payments are contractually due for payment.

The portion of the gain or loss on the hedging instrument that is determined to be an effective hedge is recognised directly in equity. When the cash flows occur, the University adjusts the initial measurement of the component parts recognised in the Statement of Financial Position by the related amount deferred in equity.

Derivatives are initially recognised at fair value on the date a derivative contract is entered into and are subsequently remeasured to their fair value. The method of recognising gain or loss depends on whether the derivative is designated as a hedging instrument, and if so, the nature of the item being hedged. The University derivatives comprise of highly probable forecast transactions (cash flow hedges).

The replacement or rollover of a hedging instrument into another hedging instrument is not considered an expiration or termination if such replacement is documented as part of the hedging strategy. Additionally, it is not considered a termination or expiration if, as a consequence of law or constitution, parties to the hedging instrument agree to replace their original counterparty to become the new counterparty to each of the parties.

For an analysis of the sensitivity of derivatives to interest rate and foreign exchange risk refer to Note 30 Financial risk management.

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Notes to the financial statements
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20 Provisions

	Consolidated		Parent	
	2023 \$'000	2022 \$'000	2023 \$'000	2022 \$'000
Current provisions expected to be settled within 12 months				
Employee benefits				
Annual leave and other compensated absences	8,864	7,160	8,864	7,160
Long service leave	8,245	11,802	8,245	11,802
Superannuation and other post-employment benefits	2,687	3,104	2,687	3,104
Employment on-costs provision	1,156	1,550	1,156	1,550
Defined benefit obligation	1,955	2,012	1,955	2,012
Other provisions	3,175	11,547	3,175	11,547
	26,082	37,175	26,082	37,175
Current provisions expected to be settled after more than 12 months				
Employee benefits				
Annual leave and other compensated absences	1,289	1,058	1,289	1,058
Long service leave	26,574	25,414	26,574	25,414
Superannuation and other post-employment benefits	3,454	3,282	3,454	3,282
Employment on-costs provision	1,951	2,150	1,951	2,150
	33,268	31,904	33,268	31,904
Total current provisions	59,350	69,079	59,350	69,079
Non-current provisions				
Employee benefits				
Long service leave	5,277	4,000	5,277	4,000
Defined benefit obligation	11,580	13,187	11,580	13,187
Provision for deferred salary	267	210	267	210
Employment on-costs provision	772	4,061	772	4,061
Other provisions	-	1,478	-	1,478
Total non-current provisions	17,896	22,936	17,896	22,936
Total provisions	77,246	92,015	77,246	92,015

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20 Provisions (continued)

a) Movements in provisions

Movements in each class of provision during the financial year, other than employee related benefits, are set out below:

	Other \$'000
Consolidated and Parent 2023	
Carrying amount as at 1 January 2023	13,025
Additional provisions recognised	8,756
Amounts used	(18,606)
Carrying amount as at 31 December 2023	3,175

Accounting policy

Provisions for legal claims and service warranties are recognised when the University has a present legal or constructive obligation as a result of past events, it is probable that an outflow of resources will be required to settle the obligation and the amount can be reliably estimated.

Provisions are not recognised for future operating losses.

Where there are several similar obligations, the likelihood that an outflow will be required in settlement is determined by considering the class of obligations as a whole. A provision is recognised even if the likelihood of an outflow with respect to any one item included in the same class of obligations may be small.

Provisions are measured at the present value of management's best estimate of the expenditure required to settle the present obligation at the end of the reporting period. The discount rate used to determine the present value reflects current market assessments of the time value of money and the risks specific to the liability. The increase in the provision due to the passage of time is recognised as a finance cost.

Details about the nature of provisions (other than those relating to employee benefits) are set out below:

Other Provision

Other provisions include a provision for present obligations arising from an onerous contract under which the unavoidable costs of meeting the contract obligations exceed the economic benefits expected to be received.

For details relating to the individual scheme, refer to Note 34 Deferred government benefit for superannuation.

Restructuring provision

The University recognises costs for restructuring within the scope of AASB137 that involves the payment of termination benefits.

Employee benefits

Current provisions expected to be settled after more than 12 months represents a current obligation of the University, however, it is the view of the management that they are expected to be settled after more than 12 months.

Annual leave liabilities have been classified as current as there is no unconditional right to defer settlement for at least 12 months after the reporting date.

Long service leave liabilities have been classified as current where there is no unconditional right to defer settlement for at least 12 months after the reporting date.

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20 Provisions (continued)

The settlement of annual and long service leave liabilities gives rise to the payment of employment on-costs including workers compensation premiums and payroll tax. The provision is measured at the present value of expected future payments. The associated expense, apart from the unwinding of the discount (finance cost), is included at Note 4 Employee related expenses.

i) Short-term obligations

Liabilities for short-term employee benefits including wages and salaries, non-monetary benefits and bonuses are measured at the amount expected to be paid when the liability is settled, if it is expected to be settled wholly before 12 months after the end of the reporting period, and is recognised in other payables. Liabilities for non-accumulating sick leave are recognised when the leave is taken and measured at the rates payable.

ii) Other long-term obligations

The liability for other long-term benefits are those that are not expected to be settled wholly before twelve months after the end of the annual reporting period. Other long-term employee benefits include such things as annual leave, accumulating sick leave and long service leave liabilities.

It is measured at the present value of expected future payments to be made in respect of services provided by employees up to the reporting date using the projected unit credit method. Consideration is given to expected future wage and salary levels, experience of employee departures and periods of service. Expected future payments are discounted using market yields at the reporting date on national government bonds with terms to maturity and currency that match, as closely as possible, the estimated future cash outflows.

Regardless of the expected timing of settlements, provisions made in respect of employee benefits are classified as a current liability, unless there is an unconditional right to defer the settlement of the liability for at least 12 months after the reporting date, in which case it would be classified as a non-current liability.

iii) Retirement benefit obligations

All employees of the University are entitled to benefits on retirement, disability or death from the University's superannuation plan. The University has a defined benefit section and a defined contribution section within its plan. The defined benefit section provides defined lump sum benefits based on years of service and final average salary. The defined contribution section receives fixed contributions from the University and the University's legal or constructive obligation is limited to these contributions. The employees of the parent entity are all members of the defined contribution and defined benefit section of the University's plan.

A liability or asset in respect of defined benefit superannuation plans is recognised in the Statement of Financial Position and is measured as the present value of the defined benefit obligation at the reporting date less the fair value of the superannuation fund's assets at that date. The present value of the defined benefit obligation is based on expected future payments which arise from membership of the fund to the reporting date, calculated annually by independent actuaries using the projected unit credit method. Consideration is given to expected future wage and salary levels, experience of employee departures and periods of service.

Expected future payments are discounted using market yields at the reporting date on national government bonds with terms to maturity and currency that match, as closely as possible, the estimated future cash outflows.

Contributions to the defined contribution section of the University's superannuation fund and other independent defined contribution superannuation funds are recognised as an expense as they become payable.

iv) Termination benefits

Termination benefits are payable when employment is terminated before the normal retirement date, or when an employee accepts an offer of benefits in exchange for the termination of employment. The University recognises the expense and liability for termination benefits either when it can no longer withdraw the offer of those benefits or when it has recognised costs for restructuring within the scope of AASB137 that involves the payment of termination benefits. The expense and liability are recognised when the University is demonstrably committed to either terminating the employment of current employees according to a detailed formal plan without possibility of withdrawal or providing termination benefits as a result of an offer made to encourage voluntary redundancy.

Termination benefits are measured on initial recognition and subsequent changes are measured and recognised in accordance with the nature of the employee benefit. Benefits expected to be settled wholly within 12 months are measured at the undiscounted amount expected to be paid. Benefits not expected to be settled before 12 months after the end of the reporting period are discounted to present value.

v) Deferred government benefit for superannuation

In accordance with the 1998 instructions issued by the Department of Education, Training and Youth Affairs (DETYA), now known as the Department of Education, Skills and Employment, the effects of the unfunded superannuation liabilities of the University were recorded in the Income Statement and the Statement of Financial Position for the first time in 1998. The prior year's practice had been to disclose liabilities by way of a note to the financial statements.

The unfunded liabilities recorded in the Statement of Financial Position under Provisions have been determined by independent actuary, Mercer, and relate to liabilities for existing employees who are members of the pension scheme and have been calculated based on each member's salary and the completed proportion of their expected total service. Members are assumed to earn entitlements to the maximum state pension at retirement.

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20 Provisions (continued)

Liabilities for existing pensioners have been calculated allowing for the level of the existing pension, the level of assumed pension indexation and expected mortality rates.

Some former pension scheme members have transferred to the Gold State Super. In respect of their transferred benefit the members receive a lump sum benefit at retirement, death or invalidity which is related to their salary during their employment and indexed during any deferral period after leaving public sector employment. Liabilities for member of Gold State Super have been calculated based on their projected unfunded transferred service amounts and rates of exit.

The calculated defined benefit obligation is the sum of the accrued liabilities for all relevant employees.

Deferred government benefits for superannuation are the amounts recognised as reimbursement rights as they are the amounts expected to be received from the Australian Government for the emerging costs of the superannuation funds for the life of the liability.

21 Other liabilities

	Consolidated		Parent	
	2023	2022	2023	2022
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Current				
Fees and grants received in advance	70,292	58,964	70,113	58,712
Financial assistance received in advance	3,464	447	3,464	447
Deferred capital grants	70,844	52,216	70,844	52,216
Accrued expenses	27,400	45,638	26,056	45,339
Total current	172,000	157,265	170,477	156,714
Non-current				
Deferred capital grants	7,547	13,569	7,547	13,569
Deferred other revenue	100,000	100,000	100,000	100,000
Total non-current	107,547	113,569	107,547	113,569
Total other liabilities	279,547	270,834	278,024	270,283

Accounting policy

Capital Grants

Capital grants include amounts received to acquire or construct a recognisable non-financial asset to be controlled by the University. The income related to the construction of buildings is recognised over time as and when the building is acquired or constructed (AASB 1058).

22 Reserves and retained earnings

a) *Reserves*

	Consolidated		Parent	
	2023	2022	2023	2022
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Reserves				
Hedging reserve - cash flow hedges	(200)	120	(200)	120
Revaluation reserves - investment	(2,099)	2,952	5,720	5,532
Revaluation reserves - properties	286,678	285,689	286,678	285,689
Foreign currency translation reserve	-	23	-	-
Total reserves	284,379	288,784	292,198	291,341

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22 Reserves and retained earnings (continued)

Movements

	Consolidated		Parent	
	2023	2022	2023	2022
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Hedging reserve - cash flow hedges				
Balance at 1 January	120	(27)	120	(27)
Gain or (loss) on hedging instrument	(320)	147	(320)	147
Balance at 31 December	(200)	120	(200)	120
Revaluation reserves - investments				
Balance at 1 January	2,952	17,154	5,532	5,635
Transfers to retained earnings ^{#1}	5,576	-	-	-
Revaluation - gross	(10,627)	(14,202)	188	(103)
Balance at 31 December	(2,099)	2,952	5,720	5,532
Revaluation reserves - properties				
Balance at 1 January	285,689	232,513	285,689	232,513
Revaluation - gross	989	53,176	989	53,176
Transfers to retained earnings	-	-	-	-
Balance at 31 December	286,678	285,689	286,678	285,689
Foreign currency translation reserves				
Balance at 1 January	23	31	-	-
Revaluation - gross	-	(8)	-	-
Transfers to retained earnings ^{#2}	(23)	-	-	-
Balance at 31 December	-	23	-	-
Total reserves	284,379	288,784	292,198	291,341

#1 Reflects the transfer between Reserves and Retained earnings in relation to the sale of part of an investment (Listed equity instrument, fair valued through other comprehensive income).

#2 Reflects the transfer between Foreign Currency Translation Reserve and Retained Earnings following the deregistration of Sai Sheng Business Information Consulting (Shanghai) Co. Ltd.

b) Retained earnings

Movement in retained earnings were as follows:

	Consolidated		Parent	
	2023	2022	2023	2022
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Retained earnings at the beginning of the year	915,456	877,554	880,065	844,605
Net result attributable to parent entity for the period	189,736	37,902	194,180	35,460
Transfers from revaluation reserves	(5,553)	-	-	-
Retained earnings at the end of the year	1,099,639	915,456	1,074,245	880,065

c) Nature and purpose of reserves

i) Revaluation reserves - properties

The property, plant and equipment revaluation reserve is used to record increments and decrements on the revaluation of non-current assets.

ii) Revaluation reserves - investments

Changes in the fair value and exchange differences arising on revaluation of investments, such as equities, classified as financial assets designated at fair value through other comprehensive income, are taken to the investment revaluation reserve.

Amounts are reclassified within equity when the associated assets are sold.

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22 Reserves and retained earnings (continued)

iii) Hedging reserve – cash flow hedges

The hedging reserve is used to record gains or losses on a hedging instrument in a cash flow hedge that are recognised directly in equity. Amounts are reclassified to the Income Statement when the associated hedged transaction affects profit and loss. If the gains/losses in a cash flow hedge relate to the foreign purchase of a non-financial asset (e.g. property, plant and equipment), they are reclassified to the carrying amount of the asset on initial recognition.

iv) Foreign currency translation reserves

For the purpose of presentation of the financial statements, the assets and liabilities of the company's foreign operations are translated into Australian dollars using exchange rates prevailing at the end of the reporting period, unless exchange rates fluctuated significantly during that period, in which case the exchange rates at the dates of the transitions are used. Exchange difference arising, if any, are recognised in other comprehensive income and accumulated in the Foreign Currency Translation Reserve.

23 Key management personnel disclosures

a) Remuneration of key management personnel

The University has determined key management personnel to include members of the University Council and Senior officers.

- i) The total fees, salaries, superannuation, non-monetary benefits and other benefits for University Council members for the reporting period are presented within the following bands:

	Consolidated		Parent Entity	
	2023 Number	2022 Number	2023 Number	2022 Number
\$0 to \$10,000	6	11	6	11
\$10,001 to \$20,000	3	4	3	4
\$20,001 to \$30,000	1	-	1	-
\$30,001 to \$40,000	-	1	-	1
\$40,001 to \$50,000	1	1	1	1
\$50,001 to \$60,000	1	-	1	-
\$60,001 to \$70,000	1	-	1	-
\$70,001 to \$80,000	1	-	1	-
\$80,001 to \$90,000	-	1	-	1
\$150,001 to \$160,000	-	1	-	1
\$160,001 to \$170,000	1	-	1	-
\$220,001 to \$230,000	2	1	2	1
\$250,001 to \$260,000	-	1	-	1
\$820,001 to \$830,000	-	1	-	1
\$950,001 to \$960,000	1	-	1	-
Total	18	22	18	22

	Consolidated		Parent Entity	
	2023 \$'000	2022 \$'000	2023 \$'000	2022 \$'000
Short-term employee benefits	1,624	1,415	1,624	1,415
Other long-term employee benefits	106	102	106	102
Post-employment benefits	182	181	182	181
Termination benefits	-	-	-	-
Total key management personnel compensation	1,912	1,698	1,912	1,698

The total remuneration includes superannuation expense incurred by the University in respect of Council members. No Council member is a member of the pension scheme.

- ii) The total fees, salaries, superannuation, non-monetary benefits and other benefits for Senior officers for the reporting period are presented within the following bands:

	Consolidated		Parent Entity	
	2023 Number	2022 Number	2023 Number	2022 Number
\$150,001 to \$200,000	-	2	-	2
\$200,001 to \$250,000	-	1	-	1
\$250,001 to \$300,000	-	3	-	3
\$300,001 to \$350,000	7	5	7	5
\$350,001 to \$400,000	1	1	1	1
\$400,001 to \$450,000	2	3	2	3
\$450,001 to \$500,000	2	2	2	2
\$500,001 to \$550,000	4	1	4	1
Total	16	18	16	18

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23 Key management personnel disclosures (continued)

	Consolidated		Parent Entity	
	2023 \$'000	2022 \$'000	2023 \$'000	2022 \$'000
Short-term employee benefits	5,327	4,795	5,327	4,795
Other long-term employee benefits	458	420	458	420
Post-employment benefits	792	752	792	752
Termination benefits	-	224	-	224
Total key management personnel compensation	6,577	6,191	6,577	6,191

The total remuneration includes superannuation expense incurred by the University in respect of Senior officers. No Senior officer is a member of the pension scheme.

24 Remuneration of auditors

Remuneration to the Office of the Auditor General (OAG) and non-related audit firms for the financial year are as follows:

	Consolidated		Parent Entity	
	2023 \$'000	2022 \$'000	2023 \$'000	2022 \$'000
Audit of the financial statements				
Audit fees - OAG	335	298	335	298
Other audit and assurance services				
Audit fees - OAG	94	68	16	15
Audit fees - Non-OAG firms	28	30	27	25
Total	457	396	378	338

25 Commitments

a) Capital expenditure commitments

Capital expenditure commitments, being contracted capital expenditure additional to the amounts reported in the financial statements, including amounts for infrastructure, are payable as follows:

	Consolidated		Parent	
	2023 \$'000	2022 \$'000	2023 \$'000	2022 \$'000
Property, plant and equipment				
Within one year	428,580	209,800	428,580	209,800
Between one year and five years	246,817	631,475	246,817	631,475
	675,397	841,275	675,397	841,275

ECU City Campus Project

Edith Cowan University will develop a Creative Industries, Business and Technology Campus in the centre of Perth, as part of a transformational deal for the University that will also support Western Australia's economic recovery. The Federal and State Governments have committed capital funding towards this project as part of the Perth City Deal with ECU funding the balance towards the City Campus. In December 2022, the University entered into a construction contract with Multiplex and moved into the Main Works Construction phase. The project has continued in construction phase throughout 2023.

b) Other expenditure commitments

Commitments in relation to purchase orders in existence at the reporting date, but not recognised as liabilities, are payable as follows:

	Consolidated		Parent	
	2023 \$'000	2022 \$'000	2023 \$'000	2022 \$'000
Within one year	21,887	15,630	21,887	15,630
Between one year and five years	3,742	4,608	3,742	4,608
	25,629	20,238	25,629	20,238

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26 Related parties

a) Parent entities

The ultimate parent entity within the Group is Edith Cowan University. Transactions between parent company and its subsidiaries are eliminated on consolidation and are not disclosed in this note.

b) Subsidiaries

Interests in subsidiaries are set out in Note 27 Subsidiaries.

c) Joint Ventures and Associates

The University's interests in joint ventures and associates are set out in Note 15 Investments accounted for using the equity method.

d) Key management personnel

The University had no material related party transaction with Key Management Personnel or their close family members or their controlled (or jointly controlled) entities for disclosure.

e) Transactions with related parties

The following transactions (exc GST) occurred with related parties:

	Joint venture		Associates	
	2023	2022	2023	2022
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Sale of goods and services	3,454	1,428	352	355
Purchase of goods and services	1,767	2,366	86	86

f) Outstanding balances

The following balances (inc GST) are outstanding at the reporting date in relation to transactions with related parties:

	Joint venture		Associates	
	2023	2022	2023	2022
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Trade amounts owing from related parties	1	2	196	89
Trade amounts owing to related parties	-	59	1	8

No provisions for doubtful debts have been raised in relation to any outstanding balances, and no expense has been recognised in respect of bad or doubtful debts due from related parties.

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27 Subsidiaries

The consolidated financial statements incorporate the assets, liabilities and results of the following subsidiaries:

Name of Entity	Principal place of business	Ownership interest	
		2023	2022
		%	%
Edith Cowan Accommodation Holdings Pty Ltd	Western Australia	100	100
Australian Pathway Education Group Pty Ltd	Western Australia	100	100
ECU Holdings Pty Ltd as trustee for The Edith Cowan University Hold Trust	Western Australia	100	100

Australian Pathway Education Group \$'000	The Edith Cowan University Hold Trust \$'000
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At 31 December 2022

Cost	959	55,145
Additions	300	-
Transfers to ECU Hold Trust	-	-
Impairment	(780)	-
Carrying amount	479	55,145

Year ended 31 December 2023

Opening carrying amount	479	55,145
Additions	-	-
Transfers to ECU Hold Trust	-	-
Impairment	(40)	-
Carrying amount	439	55,145

Effective 1 July 2022, Australian Pathway Education Group Pty Ltd (APEG) ceased operations and commenced wind up of its subsidiaries as follows:

- The deregistration process for Sai Sheng Business Information Consulting (Shanghai) Co., Ltd was completed on 17 February 2023.
- The deregistration process for St Stephens College (Hong Kong) Limited started in May 2023 and was completed on 3 November 2023.
- The APEG deregistration is in progress.

Accounting Policy

Subsidiaries are all those entities (including structured entities) over which the University has control. The University has control over an investee when it is exposed, or has rights, to variable returns from its involvement with the investee and has the ability to affect those returns through its power over the investee. Power over the investee exists when the University has existing rights that give it current ability to direct the relevant activities of the investee. The existence and effect of potential voting rights that are currently exercisable or convertible are considered when assessing whether the University controls another entity. Returns are not necessarily monetary and can be only positive, only negative, or both positive and negative.

Subsidiaries are fully consolidated from the date on which control is transferred to the University. They are de-consolidated from the date that control ceases.

Intercompany transactions, balances and unrealised gains on transactions between Group companies are eliminated. Unrealised losses are also eliminated unless the transaction provides evidence of the impairment of the asset transferred. Accounting policies of subsidiaries have been changed where necessary to ensure consistency with the policies adopted by the University.

The acquisition method of accounting is used to account for the acquisition of a subsidiary by the University.

Where the consolidated entity loses control over a subsidiary, it derecognises the assets including goodwill, liabilities and non-controlling interest in the subsidiary together with any cumulative translation differences recognised in equity. The consolidated entity recognises the fair value of the consideration received and the fair value of any investment retained together with any gain or loss in profit or loss.

Interests in subsidiaries is accounted for at cost, less any impairment, in the parent entity. Dividends received from subsidiaries are recognised as other income by the parent entity and its receipt may be an indicator of an impairment of the investment.

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28 Events occurring after the reporting date

On 28 February 2024, the Board of ECU's Associate, Sapien Cyber Ltd in which ECU holds a 21% interest, placed the company into Voluntary Administration. As at 31 December 2023:

- i. the carrying amount of the associate in the Group's financial statements is \$ Nil
- ii. the Group has a loan and lease receivables from Sapien Cyber Ltd totalling a sum of \$0.6 million.

There are no other known matters or circumstances that have arisen since the end of the reporting period which have significantly affected or could significantly affect the operations or results of the Group.

29 Reconciliation of net result to net cash flows from operating activities

	Consolidated		Parent Entity	
	2023	2022	2023	2022
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Net result for the period	189,736	37,902	194,180	35,460
Non-cash items				
Depreciation and amortisation	25,959	23,850	25,806	23,734
Fair Value Gains/(Losses) on investments	(20,626)	31,463	(20,626)	31,463
Impairment of assets	404	-	440	781
(Gain)/loss on sale of asset	(1)	(33)	(1)	(33)
Share of profit or loss on investments accounted for using the equity method not received as dividends or distributions	(4,200)	(1,226)	(4,200)	(1,226)
Borrowing costs	67	67	67	67
	191,339	92,023	195,666	90,246
(Increase)/decrease in receivables and non-financial assets	(27,213)	16,855	(4,794)	(8,086)
Increase/(decrease) in trade and other payables	29,182	79,538	29,299	102,847
Increase/(decrease) in contract liabilities	2,960	1,008	2,960	1,008
Increase/(decrease) in provisions	(14,769)	(3,518)	(14,769)	(3,500)
	(9,840)	93,883	12,696	92,269
Net cash inflow from operating activities	181,499	185,906	208,362	182,515

30 Financial risk management

The University is exposed to the following financial risks as a result of its activities:

a) *Market risk*

i) *Foreign exchange risk*

The University manages its foreign exchange risk by negotiating all contracts in Australian dollars as far as it is practical. The University seeks to hedge any material and highly probable foreign exchange exposure. The University does not speculate in foreign currency exchange.

ii) *Interest risk*

The University's exposure to interest rate risk arises from its cash at bank balance and borrowings. The University's interest rate risk arising from the University's borrowings is managed by diversifying maturities and interest rate terms, and monthly monitoring of targeted interest cover, liquidity and debt portfolio maturity profile. Other than as detailed in the interest rate sensitivity analysis table in (iv), the University has limited exposure to interest rate.

iii) *Price risk*

The University's investment portfolio is exposed to fluctuations in the prices of equity securities. The University's investment policy provides strategies for minimisation of price risk with the diversification of investment managers and regular monitoring by an independent expert to ensure that there is no concentration of risk in any one area.

iv) *Summarised sensitivity analysis*

The following table summarises the sensitivity of the University's financial assets and financial liabilities to interest rate risk, foreign exchange risk and other price risk.

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30 Financial risk management (continued)

a) *Market risk (continued)*

	Carrying Amount \$'000	Interest rate risk				Foreign exchange risk				Other price risk			
		-0.10%		0.10%		-10%		10%		-10%		10%	
		Profit \$'000	Equity \$'000	Profit \$'000	Equity \$'000	Profit \$'000	Equity \$'000	Profit \$'000	Equity \$'000	Profit \$'000	Equity \$'000	Profit \$'000	Equity \$'000
31 December 2023													
Financial Assets													
Cash and cash equivalents	181,740	(69)	(69)	69	69	163	163	(163)	(163)	-	-	-	-
Trade receivable	9,873	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Financial assets at amortised cost	482,487	(349)	(349)	349	349	51	51	(51)	(51)	-	-	-	-
Financial assets - through other comprehensive income	27,599	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	(2,760)	(2,760)	2,760	2,760
Financial assets designated at fair value through profit or loss	380,956	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	(38,096)	(38,096)	38,096	38,096
Sub-total		(418)	(418)	418	418	214	214	(214)	(214)	(40,856)	(40,856)	40,856	40,856
Financial Liabilities													
Trade payables	50,017	-	-	-	-	11	11	(11)	(11)	-	-	-	-
Borrowings	403,226	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Accrued expenses	27,400	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other financial liabilities	200	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Sub-total		-	-	-	-	11	11	(11)	(11)	-	-	-	-
Total increase/(decrease)		(418)	(418)	418	418	225	225	(225)	(225)	(40,856)	(40,856)	40,856	40,856

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Notes to the financial statements
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30 Financial risk management (continued)

a) Market risk (continued)

	Carrying Amount \$'000	Interest rate risk				Foreign exchange risk				Other price risk			
		-0.10%		0.10%		-10%		10%		-10%		10%	
		Profit \$'000	Equity \$'000	Profit \$'000	Equity \$'000	Profit \$'000	Equity \$'000	Profit \$'000	Equity \$'000	Profit \$'000	Equity \$'000	Profit \$'000	Equity \$'000
31 December 2022													
Financial Assets													
Cash and cash equivalents	135,138	(73)	(73)	73	73	104	104	(104)	(104)	-	-	-	-
Trade receivable	11,453	-	-	-	-	34	34	(34)	(34)	-	-	-	-
Financial assets at amortised cost	515,099	(334)	(334)	334	334	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Financial assets - through other comprehensive income	57,161	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	(5,716)	(5,716)	5,716	5,716
Financial assets designated at fair value through profit or loss	339,269	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	(33,927)	(33,927)	33,927	33,927
Sub-total		(407)	(407)	407	407	138	138	(138)	(138)	(39,643)	(39,643)	39,643	39,643
Financial Liabilities													
Trade payables	29,548	-	-	-	-	(62)	(62)	62	62	-	-	-	-
Borrowings	405,088	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Accrued expenses	45,638	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other financial liabilities	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Sub-total		-	-	-	-	(62)	(62)	62	62	-	-	-	-
Total increase/(decrease)		(407)	(407)	407	407	76	76	(76)	(76)	(39,643)	(39,643)	39,643	39,643

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30 Financial risk management (continued)

b) Credit risk

Credit risk arises principally from the University's investment securities and to a limited extent from its receivables. The carrying amount of the financial assets represents the maximum credit risk exposure at the reporting date.

The University manages its exposure to credit risk by diversifying investments between fund managers, setting investment restrictions and establishing strategic asset allocation benchmarks.

The University's Investment Policy Statement sets out Investment Policy for matters such as performance objectives, investment restrictions, performance benchmarks and monitoring, and the strategic asset allocation benchmark for each investment pool. The Investment Policy Statement is reviewed internally at least every three years. An independent consultant is engaged to assess both the Investment Policy and the internal reviews thereof, unless otherwise approved by Council.

The majority of the University's exposure to credit risk from receivables is denominated in Australian Dollars. The University's trade and receivable management policy is designed to ensure that credit facilities are provided to customers with an appropriate credit history.

The University's cash and cash equivalent transactions are invested only with investment grade deposit taking institutions and in accordance with the University Treasury Policy, where maximum exposure limits are set for each institution according to their risk profile.

c) Liquidity risk

The University is exposed to liquidity risk through its trading in the normal course of business. Liquidity risk arises when the University is unable to meet its financial obligations as they fall due.

The University's objective is to maintain a balance between continuity of funding and flexibility through the use of borrowings. The University has appropriate procedures to manage cash flows by monitoring forecast cash flows to ensure that sufficient funds are available to meet its commitments.

The tables below analyse the University's financial assets and liabilities based on the remaining period at the reporting date to the contractual maturity date. The amounts disclosed in the table are the contractual undiscounted cash flows. Balances due within 12 months equal their carrying balances, as the impact of discounting is not significant.

d) Derivatives

Derivatives are initially recognised at fair value on the date a derivative contract is entered into and are subsequently remeasured to their fair value. The method of recognising the resulting gain or loss depends on whether the derivative is designated as a hedging instrument, and if so, the nature of the item being hedged.

The effective portion of the change in the fair value of derivatives that are designated and qualify as cash flow hedges is recognised in other comprehensive income. The gain or loss relating to the ineffective portion is recognised immediately in the income statement within other income or other expense.

Amounts that have been recognised in other comprehensive income are reclassified from equity to profit or loss as a reclassification adjustment in the periods when the hedged item affects profit or loss (for instance, when the forecast sale that is hedged takes place).

When a hedging instrument expires or is sold or terminated, or when a hedge no longer meets the criteria for hedge accounting, any cumulative gain or loss that has been recognised in other comprehensive income from the period when the hedge was effective shall remain separately in equity until the forecast transaction occurs. When a forecast transaction is no longer expected to occur, the cumulative gain or loss that was recognised in other comprehensive income is reclassified to profit or loss as a reclassification adjustment.

Derivatives that do not qualify for hedge accounting

Certain derivative instruments do not qualify for hedge accounting. Change in the fair value of any derivative instrument that does not qualify for hedge accounting is recognised immediately in the income statement and is included in other income or other expenses.

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30 Financial risk management (continued)

The University's derivative financial instruments will be settled on a gross basis within the next 12 months.

	Within 1 year		1 - 2 years		2 - 5 years		5+ years		Total	
	2023	2022	2023	2022	2023	2022	2023	2022	2023	2022
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Financial Assets										
Cash and cash equivalents	181,740	135,138	-	-	-	-	-	-	181,740	135,138
Trade and other receivables	9,873	11,453	-	-	-	-	-	-	9,873	11,453
Financial assets at amortised cost	482,487	515,099	-	-	-	-	-	-	482,487	515,099
Financial assets - through other comprehensive income	-	120	-	-	-	-	27,599	57,041	27,599	57,161
Financial assets designated at fair value through profit or loss	97,755	90,670	-	-	-	-	283,201	248,599	380,956	339,269
Total financial assets	771,855	752,480	-	-	-	-	310,800	305,640	1,082,655	1,058,120
Financial Liabilities										
Trade and other payables	50,017	29,548	-	-	-	-	-	-	50,017	29,548
Borrowings	2,193	2,116	2,233	2,151	5,080	6,648	393,720	394,173	403,226	405,088
Accrued expenses	27,400	45,638	-	-	-	-	-	-	27,400	45,638
Derivative financial instruments	200	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	200	-
Total financial liabilities	79,810	77,302	2,233	2,151	5,080	6,648	393,720	394,173	480,843	480,274

31 Fair value measurements

a) *Fair value measurements*

The fair value financial assets and financial liabilities must be estimated for recognition and measurement or for disclosure purposes.

Due to the short-term nature of the current receivables their carrying value is assumed to approximate their fair value and based on credit history it is expected that the receivables that are neither past due nor impaired will be received when due.

The carrying amounts and aggregate net fair values of financial assets and liabilities at balance date are:

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31 Fair value measurements (continued)

a) *Fair value measurements (continued)*

Consolidated

	Notes	Carrying Amount		Fair Value	
		2023 \$'000	2022 \$'000	2023 \$'000	2022 \$'000
Financial Assets					
Cash and cash equivalents	10	181,740	135,138	181,740	135,138
Trade receivables	11	9,873	11,453	9,873	11,453
Financial assets at amortised cost	12	482,487	515,099	482,487	515,099
Financial assets through other comprehensive income	12	27,599	57,161	27,599	57,161
Financial assets designated at fair value through profit or loss	12	380,956	339,269	380,956	339,269
Total financial assets		1,082,655	1,058,120	1,082,655	1,058,120
Financial Liabilities					
Trade payables	17	50,017	29,548	50,017	29,548
Borrowings	18	403,226	405,088	402,015	403,109
Other financial liabilities	19	200	-	200	-
Accrued expense	21	27,400	45,638	27,400	45,638
Total financial liabilities		480,843	480,274	479,632	478,295

The University measures and recognises the following assets and liabilities at fair value on a recurring basis.

- Derivative financial instruments
- Available-for-sale financial assets
- Land and buildings
- Leasehold improvements
- Investments properties
- Artworks

b) *Fair value hierarchy*

The University categorises assets and liabilities measured at fair value into a hierarchy based on the level of inputs used in measurement.

- Level 1 Quoted prices (unadjusted) in active markets for identical assets or liabilities
- Level 2 Inputs other than quoted prices included within Level 1 that are observable for the asset or liability, either directly or indirectly
- Level 3 Inputs for the asset or liability that are not based on observable market data (unobservable inputs)

c) *Recognised fair value measurements*

Fair value measurements recognised in the statement of financial position are categorised into the following levels at 31 December 2023.

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31 Fair value measurements (continued)

Fair value measurements at 31 December 2023

		2023	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3
	Note	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Consolidated					
Recurring fair value measurements					
Financial assets					
Financial assets at fair value through other comprehensive income					
	12				
Listed shares		18,451	18,451	-	-
Unlisted shares		9,147	-	-	9,147
Derivative financial instruments		1	-	-	1
Financial assets designated at fair value through profit or loss					
	12				
Funds under management		380,956	-	380,956	-
Total financial assets		408,555	18,451	380,956	9,148
Non-financial assets					
Investment properties	14	19,450	-	19,450	-
Land	16	220,873	-	220,873	-
Buildings	16	563,103	-	38,993	524,110
Leasehold improvements	16	1,377	-	1,377	-
Artworks	16	15,355	-	15,355	-
Total non-financial assets		820,158	-	296,048	524,110

Fair value measurements at 31 December 2022

		2022	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3
	Note	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Consolidated					
Recurring fair value measurements					
Financial assets					
Financial assets at fair value through other comprehensive income					
	12				
Listed shares		50,090	50,090	-	-
Unlisted shares		6,951	-	-	6,951
Derivative financial instruments		120	-	120	-
Financial assets designated at fair value through profit or loss					
	12				
Funds under management		248,599	-	248,599	-
Total financial assets		305,760	50,090	248,719	6,951
Non-financial assets					
Investment properties	14	21,083	-	21,083	-
Land	16	227,730	-	227,730	-
Buildings	16	566,807	-	-	566,807
Leasehold improvements	16	2,065	-	-	2,065
Artworks	16	15,337	-	15,337	-
Total non-financial assets		833,022	-	264,150	568,872

There were no transfers between levels 1 and 2.

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31 Fair value measurements (continued)

d) *Valuation techniques used to derive level 2 and level 3 fair values*

i) *Recurring fair value measurements*

The fair value of financial instruments that are not traded in an active market (for example, derivatives and unlisted shares) is determined using valuation techniques. These valuation techniques maximise the use of observable market data where it is available and rely as little as possible on entity specific estimates. If all significant inputs required to fair value an instrument are observable, the instrument is included in level 2.

If one or more of the significant inputs is not based on observable market data, the instrument is included in level 3. This is the case for unlisted equity securities, buildings and leasehold improvements.

The University uses a variety of methods and makes assumptions that are based on market conditions existing at each balance date. Specific valuation techniques used to value financial instruments include:

- the use of quoted market prices or dealer quotes for similar instruments;
- the fair value of forward foreign exchange contracts is determined using forward exchange rates at the end of the reporting period; and
- other techniques, such as discounted cash flow analysis, are used to determine fair value for the remaining financial instruments

All of the resulting fair value estimates are included in level 2 except for unlisted equity securities (as explained in (e) below), buildings and leasehold improvements.

Investment properties and freehold land and buildings (classified as property, plant and equipment) are valued independently every year. At the end of each reporting period, the University updates their assessment of the fair value of each property, taking into account the most recent independent valuations.

The best evidence of fair values is current prices in an active market for similar properties or contractual arrangements where applicable. Where such information is not available, the valuers consider information from a variety of sources, including:

- current prices in an active market for properties of different nature or recent prices of similar properties in less active markets, adjusted to reflect those differences;
- discounted cash flow projections based on reliable estimates of future cash flows; and
- capitalised income projections based on a property's estimated net market income, and a capitalisation rate derived from an analysis of market evidence.

All resulting fair value estimates for properties are included in level 3 except for land, Yanchep and Mount Lawley Buildings and investment properties which are included as Level 2.

e) *Fair value measurements using significant unobservable inputs (level 3)*

The following table is a reconciliation of level 3 items for the periods ended 31 December 2023 and 2022.

	Unlisted Shares \$'000
Consolidated	
Level 3 Fair Value Measurements 2023	
Opening balance	6,951
Recognised in other comprehensive income	2,196
Closing balance	9,147
	Unlisted Shares \$'000
Consolidated	
Level 3 Fair Value Measurements 2022	
Opening balance	6,900
Recognised in other comprehensive income	51
Closing balance	6,951

i) Transfers between levels 2 and 3 and changes in valuation techniques.

For the 2023 reporting period, the buildings and leasehold improvements for Yanchep and Mount Lawley campus were transferred to Level 2 from Level 3.

The Yanchep Buildings have been valued in 2023 using capitalised income projections based on the property's estimated net market income and a capitalisation rate derived from an analysis of market evidence.

Edith Cowan University
Notes to the financial statements
For the year ended 31 December 2023

31 Fair value measurements (continued)

Mount Lawley land, buildings and leasehold improvements held by the University are designated to be transferred to the WA state Government pursuant to a funding agreement with respect to the construction of the City Campus in the Perth CBD. The State Government has provided \$100 million to recompense the University for the assets at the Mount Lawley Campus being handed over to the WA State Government on completion of the City Campus.

ii) Valuation inputs and relationships to fair value

Management has engaged an independent external valuation to determine the fair value of the unlisted shares which has determined that an asset-based approach is the most appropriate method given the nature of these entities. In using this approach, the net assets of the entities has formed the basis for the valuation without the need for any adjustments as the net assets and liabilities of the entities are either measured at fair value or approximate fair value.

iii) Valuation processes

Calculation methodology has been disclosed as part of (c) in this note.

Accounting Policy

Fair value

The fair values of investments and other financial assets are based on quoted prices in an active market. If the market for a financial asset is not active as for unlisted securities, the University establishes fair value by using valuation techniques that maximise the use of relevant data. These include reference to the estimated price in an orderly transaction that would take place between market participants at the measurement date. Other valuation techniques used are the cost approach and the income approach based on the characteristics of the asset and the assumptions made by market participants.

The University classifies fair value measurements using a fair value hierarchy that reflects the significance of the inputs used in making the measurements.

The fair value of assets or liabilities traded in active markets (such as publicly traded derivatives, and trading and available-for-sale securities) is based on quoted market prices for identical assets or liabilities at the end of the reporting period (level 1). The quoted market price used for assets held by the University is the most representative of fair value in the circumstances within the bid-ask spread.

The fair value of assets or liabilities that are not traded in an active market (for example, over-the-counter derivatives) is determined using valuation techniques. The University uses a variety of methods and makes assumptions that are based on market conditions existing at each balance date. Quoted market prices or dealer quotes for similar instruments (level 2) are used for managed funds and derivative financial instruments and current rentals derived from market data are used for investment properties. Other techniques that are not based on observable market data are used to determine fair value of unlisted shares, buildings and leasehold improvements (level 3).

The fair value of forward exchange contracts is determined using forward exchange market rates at the reporting date. The level in the fair value hierarchy shall be determined on the basis of the lowest level input that is significant to the fair value measurement in its entirety.

Fair value measurement of non-financial assets is based on the highest and best use of the asset. The University considers market participants purchase price of the asset, in a manner that would be highest and best use.

The carrying value less impairment provision of trade receivables and payables are assumed to approximate their fair values due to their short-term nature. The fair value of financial assets and liabilities for disclosure purposes is estimated by discounting the future contractual cash flows at the current market interest rate that is available to the University for similar financial instruments.

32 Write-offs

	Consolidated		Parent Entity	
	2023	2022	2023	2022
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Total write-offs as approved by the University council during the financial year				
Receivables written-off against provision	112	245	112	245
Other receivables written-off	15	-	13	-
Total write-offs	127	245	125	245

33 Contingencies

The University did not have any contingencies at 31 December 2023.

Edith Cowan University
Notes to the financial statements
For the year ended 31 December 2023

34 Deferred government benefit for superannuation

a) *Government Employees Superannuation Board*

Pension scheme

	Impact on defined benefit obligation (\$'000)		
	Change in assumption	Increase in assumption	Decrease in assumption
Discount rate	0.5% p.a	(383)	406
Pension increase rate	0.5% p.a	380	(362)

Gold State Super (transferred) benefits

	Impact on defined benefit obligation (\$'000)		
	Change in assumption	Increase in assumption	Decrease in assumption
Discount rate	0.5% p.a	(1)	2
Salary increase rate	0.5% p.a	2	(1)

Reconciliation of the net defined benefit liability/(asset)

	Pension scheme		Gold State Super	
	2023	2022	2023	2022
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Defined benefit obligation	13,390	15,064	145	135
Fair value of plan assets	-	-	-	-
Deficit	13,390	15,064	145	135
Adjustment for effect of asset ceiling	-	-	-	-
Net deferred benefit/(asset)	13,390	15,064	145	135

The asset ceiling has no impact on the net defined benefit liability/(asset).

	Pension scheme		Gold State Super		Total	
	2023	2022	2023	2022	2023	2022
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Current	1,916	1,984	39	28	1,955	2,012
Non-current	11,474	13,080	106	107	11,580	13,187
Total	13,390	15,064	145	135	13,535	15,199

Reconciliation of the defined benefit obligation:

	Pension scheme		Gold State Super	
	2023	2022	2023	2022
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Present value of defined benefit obligations at the beginning of the year	15,064	16,909	135	375
Interest cost	493	255	4	5
Actuarial (gains)/losses arising from changes in demographic assumptions	-	-	(1)	1
Actuarial (gains)/losses arising from changes in financial assumptions	(661)	(1,063)	(1)	(4)
Actuarial (gains)/losses arising from liability experience	423	911	8	(5)
Benefits paid	(1,929)	(1,948)	-	(237)
Balance at the end of the year	13,390	15,064	145	135

Edith Cowan University
Notes to the financial statements
For the year ended 31 December 2023

34 Deferred government benefit for superannuation (continued)

Reconciliation of the fair value of Scheme assets:

	Pension scheme	
	2023 \$'000	2022 \$'000
Fair value of Scheme assets at the beginning of the year	-	-
Employer contributions	1,929	1,948
Benefits paid	(1,929)	(1,948)
Balance at the end of the year	-	-

Significant Actuarial assumptions at the reporting date:

	Pension scheme		Gold State Super	
	2023 % p.a	2022 % p.a	2023 % p.a	2022 % p.a
Discount rate (active members)	4.30	3.50	4.30	3.50
Discount rate (pensioners)	4.30	3.50	4.30	3.50
Expected salary increase rates		-	3.5% p.a	3.5% p.a
	3% for the first two years, then 2.5% p.a	3% for the first three years, then 2.5% p.a	4.4% for the first year, 3% for the second year, then 2.5% p.a.	3% for the first three years, then 2.5% p.a
Expected pension increase rates				

b) Expected Contributions

	Pension scheme	Gold State Super
	2023 \$'000	2023 \$'000
Expected employer contributions in the next financial year	1,916	39

Accounting Policy

Unfunded Pension and Unfunded Gold State Super (Lump sum) Schemes

The University has in its staffing profile a number of employees who are members of the Government Employees Superannuation Board (GESB) Scheme. As the employer, the University is required to contribute to the scheme as employees are paid a pension or lump sum pay out. Consequently, an unfunded liability has been created. An arrangement exists between the Commonwealth Government and the Western Australian Government to meet the unfunded liability for the University's beneficiaries of the State Superannuation Schemes on an emerging cost basis. A corresponding asset is also recognised under receivables to recognise the reimbursement rights (refer to Note 12).

The recognition of both the asset and the liability concurrently does not affect the end of year net asset position of the University. The liability and equivalent receivables are measured actuarially on an annual basis.

Nature of the benefits provided by the Schemes

Pension Scheme

The employer-financed benefit is a pension benefit payable on retirement, death or invalidity, or a lump sum benefit on resignation.

Gold State Super (transferred benefits)

Some former pension scheme members have transferred to Gold State Super. In respect of their transferred benefit the members receive a lump sum benefit at retirement, death or invalidity which is related to their salary during their employment and indexed during any deferral period after leaving public sector employment.

The regulatory framework

The Pension Scheme and Gold State Super (transferred benefits) operate under the State Superannuation Act 2000 (Western Australia) and the State Superannuation Regulations 2001 (Western Australia).

Scheme risks

Although the Schemes are not formally subject to the Superannuation Industry (Supervision) (SIS) legislation, the Western Australian government has undertaken (in a Heads of Government Agreement) to operate the Schemes in accordance with the spirit of the SIS legislation.

Edith Cowan University
Notes to the financial statements
For the year ended 31 December 2023

34 Deferred government benefit for superannuation (continued)

As an exempt public sector superannuation scheme (as defined in the SIS legislation), the Schemes are not subject to any minimum funding requirements.

As a constitutionally protected scheme, the Schemes are not required to pay tax.

Other entities responsibilities for the governance of the Schemes

The Government Employees Superannuation Board (GESB) is the Scheme's Trustee and is responsible for the governance of the Scheme. As Trustee, GESB has a legal obligation to act solely in the best interests of Scheme beneficiaries. GESB has the following roles:

- Administration of the Scheme and payment to the beneficiaries when required in accordance with the Scheme rules;
- Management and investment of the Scheme assets (although the liabilities are not supported by assets); and
- Compliance with the Heads of Government Agreement referred to above.

Pension Scheme

There are a number of risks to which the Scheme exposes the University. The more significant risks relating to the defined benefits are:

- **Legislative risk** - the risk is that legislative changes could be made which increase the cost of providing the defined benefits;
- **Pensioner mortality risk** - the risk is that pensioner mortality will be lighter than expected, resulting in pensions being paid for a longer period; and
- **Inflation risk** - the risk that inflation is higher than anticipated, increasing pension payments, and the associated employer contributions.

Gold State Super (transferred benefits)

There are a number of risks to which the Scheme exposes the University. The more significant risks relating to the defined benefits are:

- **Salary growth risk** - the risk that wages or salaries (on which future benefit amounts will be based) will rise more rapidly than assumed, increasing defined amounts and the associated employer contributions; and
- **Legislative risk** - the risk is that legislative changes could be made which increase the cost of providing the defined benefits.

Significant events

There were no plan amendments, curtailments or settlements during the year.

Sensitivity analysis

Sensitivity analyses are based on a change in an assumption while holding all the other assumptions constant. In practice this is unlikely to occur and changes in some of the assumptions may be correlated. When calculating the sensitivity of the defined benefit obligation to significant actuarial assumptions, the same method has been applied as when calculating the defined benefit liability recognised in the statement of financial position.

The methods and types of assumptions used in the preparation of the sensitivity analysis did not change compared to the prior period.

Funding Arrangements

These defined benefit obligations are wholly unfunded, such that there are no plan assets. The employer contributes, as required, to meet the benefits paid.

Fair value of Scheme assets

There are no assets in the Pension Scheme to support the State Share of the Benefit. Hence, there is:

- No fair value of Scheme assets;
- No asset allocation of Scheme assets;
- No financial instruments issued by the employer;
- No assets used by the employer; and
- No asset-liability matching strategies.

Discount Rate

The discount rate is based on the Government bond maturing in April 2025. The decrement rates used (e.g. mortality and retirement rates) are based on those used at the last actuarial valuation for the Schemes.

Maturity Profile

Pension Scheme

The weighted average duration of the defined benefit obligation for the whole of the Pension Scheme is 6.5 years (2022: 6.8 years).

Gold State Super (transferred benefits)

The weighted average duration of the defined benefit obligation for the whole of the Gold State Super Scheme is 2.3 years (2022: 2.7 years).

Edith Cowan University
Notes to the financial statements
For the year ended 31 December 2023

35 Acquittal of Australian Government financial assistance

a) *Education - CGS and other Education grants*

Notes	Commonwealth Grants Scheme ^{#1}		Indigenous, Regional and Low-SES Attainment Fund ^{#2}		Higher Education Disability Support Program ^{#3}		National Priorities and Industry Linkage Fund		Indigenous Student Success Program		Total	
	2023	2022	2023	2022	2023	2022	2023	2022	2023	2022	2023	2022
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Parent entity (University) only												
Financial assistance received in cash during the reporting period (total cash received from the Australian Government for the program)	165,539	162,417	2,844	2,835	344	272	4,960	4,793	1,418	1,340	175,105	171,657
Net accrual adjustment	(11,865)	(1,960)	200	(197)	-	-	(3,903)	(2,710)	(73)	(106)	(15,641)	(4,973)
Revenue for the period	153,674	160,457	3,044	2,638	344	272	1,057	2,083	1,345	1,234	159,464	166,684
Adjustment to the prior year	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Surplus / (deficit) from the previous year	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total revenue including accrued revenue	153,674	160,457	3,044	2,638	344	272	1,057	2,083	1,345	1,234	159,464	166,684
Less expenses including accrued expenses	(153,674)	(160,457)	(3,044)	(2,638)	(344)	(272)	(1,057)	(2,083)	(1,345)	(1,234)	(159,464)	(166,684)
Surplus / (deficit) for reporting period	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

#1 Includes the basic CGS grant amount, Medical Student Loading, Transition Fund Loading, Allocated Places and Non-designated Courses and CGS – Special Advances from Future Years.

#2 Includes the Higher Education Participation and Partnership Program, Regional Loading and Enabling Loading.

#3 Higher Education Disability Support Program includes Additional Support for Students with Disabilities and Australian Disability Clearinghouse on Education and Training.

Edith Cowan University
Notes to the financial statements
For the year ended 31 December 2023

35 Acquittal of Australian Government financial assistance (continued)

b) Higher education loan programs (excl OS-HELP)

Notes	HECS-HELP Australian Gov't Payments Only		FEE- HELP		VET FEE HELP		SA-HELP		Total	
	2023	2022	2023	2022	2023	2022	2023	2022	2023	2022
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Parent entity (University) only										
Cash payable / (receivable) at beginning of year	(2,668)	(2,874)	80	(128)	(14)	4	111	1,016	(2,491)	(1,982)
Previous year adjustment	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	(919)	-	(919)
Financial assistance received in cash during the reporting period	2.1(f) 79,166	72,938	30,021	27,321	1,444	1,510	2,377	2,602	113,008	104,371
Cash available for period	76,498	70,064	30,101	27,193	1,430	1,514	2,488	2,699	110,517	101,470
Revenue earned	2.1(b) 74,366	72,732	28,949	27,113	1,466	1,528	2,539	2,588	107,320	103,961
Cash payable / (receivable) at end of year	2,132	(2,668)	1,152	80	(36)	(14)	(51)	111	3,197	(2,491)

c) Education Research^{#4}

Notes	Research Training Program		Research Support Program		Total	
	2023	2022	2023	2022	2023	2022
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Parent entity (University) only						
Financial assistance received in cash during the reporting period (total cash received from the Australian Government for the program)	2.1(f) 6,580	6,412	3,701	3,459	10,281	9,871
Net accrual adjustment	-	-	-	-	-	-
Revenue for the period	2.1(c) 6,580	6,412	3,701	3,459	10,281	9,871
Surplus / (deficit) from the previous year	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total revenue including accrued revenue	6,580	6,412	3,701	3,459	10,281	9,871
Less expenses including accrued expenses	(6,580)	(6,412)	(3,701)	(3,459)	(10,281)	(9,871)
Surplus / (deficit) for reporting period	-	-	-	-	-	-

#4 Does not include VET Student Loan Program

d) Total Higher Education Provider Research Training Program expenditure^{#5}

	Total Domestic Students \$'000	Total Overseas Students \$'000
Research Training Program Fee Offsets	5,143	
Research Training Program Stipends	960	477
Total for all types of support	6,103	477

#5 Please refer to the Commonwealth Scholarship Guidelines (Research) 2017 for expenditure definitions for the Research Training Program

Edith Cowan University
Notes to the financial statements
For the year ended 31 December 2023

35 Acquittal of Australian Government financial assistance (continued)

e) Australian Research Council Grants

Notes	Discovery		Linkages		Total	
	2023 \$'000	2022 \$'000	2023 \$'000	2022 \$'000	2023 \$'000	2022 \$'000
Parent entity (University) only						
Financial assistance received in cash during the reporting period (total cash received from the Australian Government for the program)						
2.1(f)	491	482	(262)	262	229	744
Transfers / return of grant	-	-	-	-	-	-
Net accrual adjustment	532	101	262	(262)	794	(161)
2.1(d)	1,023	583	-	-	1,023	583
Revenue for the period						
Surplus / (deficit) from the prior year	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total funding available during the year	1,023	583	-	-	1,023	583
Less expenses including accrued expenses	(1,023)	(583)	-	-	(1,023)	(583)
Surplus / (deficit) for reporting period	-	-	-	-	-	-

f) Other Australian Government Financial Assistance

Notes	Capital		Non-Capital		Total	
	2023 \$'000	2022 \$'000	2023 \$'000	2022 \$'000	2023 \$'000	2022 \$'000
Parent entity (University) only						
2.1(f)	70,000	55,000	12,295	7,272	82,295	62,272
Cash received during the reporting period						
Cash spent during the reporting period	(57,382)	(24,337)	(12,295)	(7,272)	(69,677)	(31,609)
Net cash received	12,618	30,663	-	-	12,618	30,663
Cash surplus / (deficit) from the prior year	59,844	29,181	-	-	59,844	29,181
Cash surplus / (deficit) for reporting period	72,462	59,844	-	-	72,462	59,844

Edith Cowan University
Notes to the financial statements
For the year ended 31 December 2023

35 Acquittal of Australian Government financial assistance (continued)

g) OS-HELP

	2023	2022
Notes	\$'000	\$'000
Cash received(paid) during the reporting period	2,970	(4,036)
Cash spent during the reporting period	(1,122)	(459)
Net cash received/(paid)	2.1(f) 1,848	(4,495)
Cash surplus / (deficit) from the previous period	205	4,700
Cash surplus / (deficit) for the reporting period	17 2,053	205

h) Higher Education Superannuation Program

	2023	2022
Notes	\$'000	\$'000
Cash received during the reporting period (total cash received from the Australian Government only for the program)	2.1(f) 1,894	1,897
University contribution in respect of current employees	17	16
Cash available	1,911	1,913
Cash surplus/(deficit) from the previous period	125	171
Net accrual adjustment	-	(3)
Cash available for current period	2,036	2,081
Contributions to specified defined benefit funds	(1,944)	(1,956)
Cash surplus/(deficit) this period	92	125

i) Student Services and Amenities Fee

	2023	2022
Notes	\$'000	\$'000
Unspent/(overspent) revenue from previous period	-	(97)
SA-HELP revenue earned	2.1(b) 2,558	2,588
Previous year adjustment	2.1(b) (19)	41
Student services and amenities fees direct from students	1,191	1,159
Total revenue expendable in period	3,730	3,691
Student services expenses during the period	(3,730)	(3,691)
Unspent/(overspent) Student Services Revenue	-	-

KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

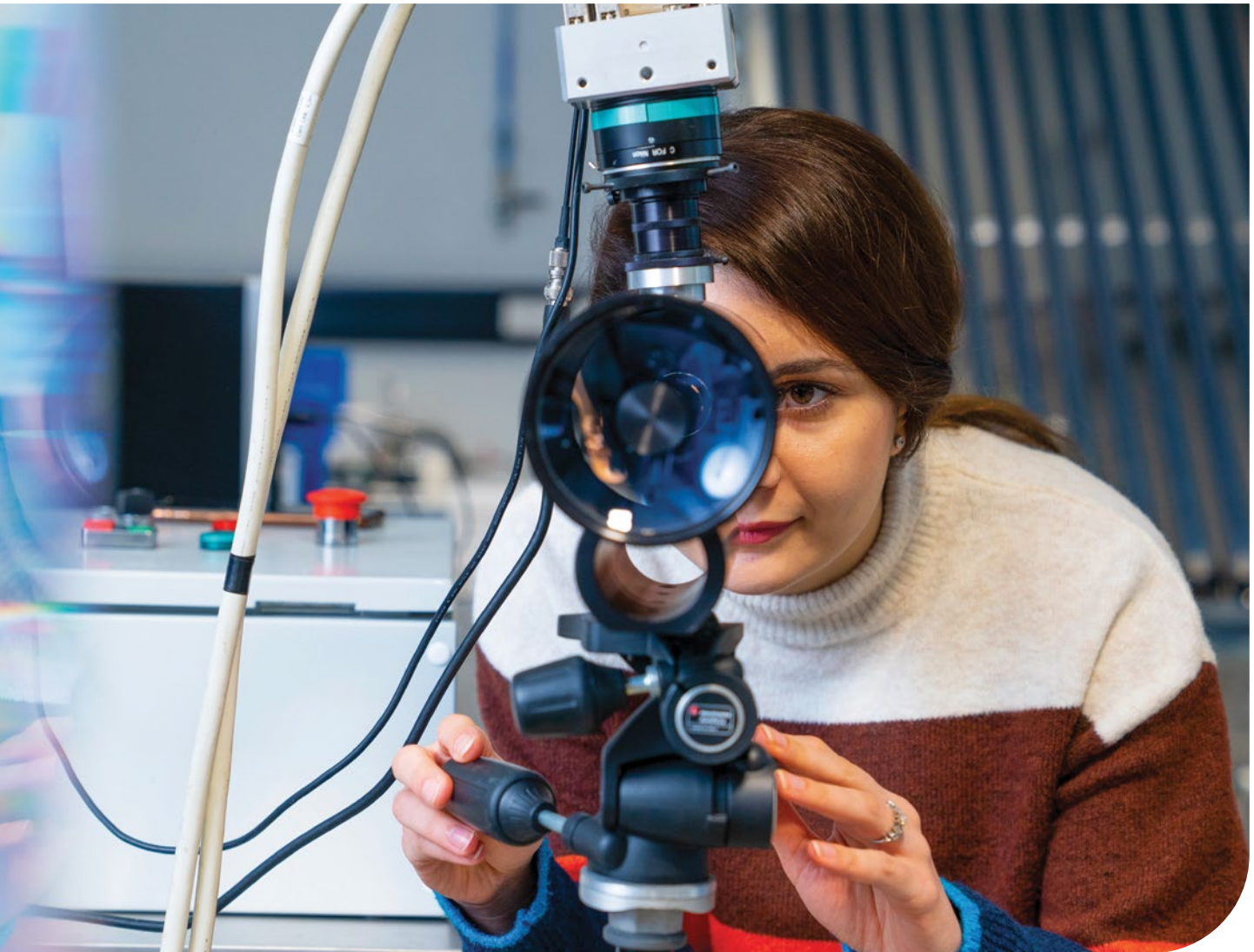


CERTIFICATION OF KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

We hereby certify that the key performance indicators are based on proper records, are relevant and appropriate for assisting users to assess Edith Cowan University's performance, and fairly represent the performance of ECU for the financial year ended 31 December 2023.

Denise Goldsworthy AO
Chancellor
14 March 2024

Professor Steve Chapman CBE
Vice-Chancellor
14 March 2024



INTRODUCTION

Edith Cowan University's vision is to lead the sector in educational experience, research with impact, and in positive contributions to industry and communities. The *ECU Strategic Plan 2022–2026: Towards the University of the Future* includes five Strategic Goals to direct the University's progress towards this vision, while staying true to ECU's purpose: to transform lives and enrich society. Each Strategic Goal is linked to Strategic Priorities.

The eight key performance indicators in this report are a sub-set of the performance indicators of the Strategic Plan. For each key performance indicator (KPI), a time series of results is shown, together with comparative results (national or WA averages) where available. Explanations of variances between results and targets are given where the variance is more than 10 per cent.

As per *Treasurer's Instruction 904U*, KPIs have been classified as 'effectiveness' or 'efficiency' indicators. 'Effectiveness' indicators relate to the services delivered, and 'efficiency' indicators include the resources required to deliver the services.

RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN KPIs AND STRATEGIC GOALS

1 An exceptional student experience

Strategic Priorities

Personalised learning and study support

Quality and consistency across all modes and locations of study

Graduates empowered to succeed

Promoting equity, diversity and excellence

Success for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students

Key performance indicators

Satisfaction with the educational experience

Retention of commencing students

Graduate employment

The three **effectiveness** key performance indicators for Strategic Goal 1 are compared against other universities' results, allowing assessment of the University's relative progress over time.

KPI 1 Satisfaction with the educational experience is based on feedback from students, and measures outcomes in terms of the quality of teaching and curriculum (Strategic Priorities 1–5) and the overall learning experience delivered through ECU's teaching and student support services.

KPI 2 Retention of commencing students measures the effectiveness of academic and support operations to engage new learners and support them in their first year of university study (Strategic Priority 1).

KPI 3 Graduate employment enables ECU to assess progress with improving graduate career readiness and employment outcomes (Strategic Priority 3).

2 Impactful world-class research

Strategic Priorities

Focused, world-class research

A strong research culture

Highly valued higher degree by research graduates

Partnerships for research

Key performance indicators

Research publications

Higher degree by research completions

ECU measures its progress in achieving impactful, world-class research (Strategic Goal 2) through two KPIs that are both **effectiveness** and **efficiency** indicators.

KPI 4 Research publications measures the key output of research and knowledge translation activities – the production of research publications – as an indicator of ECU's research capacity, collaboration, and knowledge translation (Strategic Priorities 6, 7 and 9). Measuring research outputs per 10 full-time equivalent staff provides a measure of research productivity and allows for meaningful comparison with other universities.

KPI 5 Higher degree by research completions reports graduates in masters by research and doctorates by research, as a direct outcome of the research training function and activities such as attracting research students, and providing supervision and support tailored to the research training environment (Strategic Priority 8). Measuring this output per 10 full-time equivalent staff provides a measure of efficiency and allows for meaningful comparison with other universities.

3 Leading in internationalisation

Strategic Priorities

International recovery and growth

Global relationships

Strengthening offshore delivery

International partnerships for research students

An internationalised student experience

Key performance indicators

Income from international student fees

KPI 6 is an **effectiveness** indicator that evaluates ECU's overall outcomes relative to the priorities of Strategic Goal 3.

KPI 6 Income from international student fees demonstrates how strongly ECU is competing in international markets (Strategic Priority 10), the impact of joint training programs and student transfer arrangements on student intake (Strategic Priorities 11 and 14), and the growth of offshore education delivery (Strategic Priority 12). Fee income quantifies the consequences of changes to international student load resulting from these activities. Diversifying revenue streams by growing international student fee income is an important contribution to the sustainability of universities.

Strategic Priority 13 relates to higher degree by research candidates and is measured by *KPI 5 Higher degree by research completions*.

4 Empowering our staff

Strategic Priorities

A workforce ready for the future

Contemporary approach to academic careers

A workforce reflecting our communities

Transformation, resilience, and excellence

Key performance indicators

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander employment

The chosen KPI for Strategic Goal 4 is an **effectiveness** indicator relating to Strategic Priority 17.

KPI 7 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander employment reflects ECU's commitment to recruitment, retention, and career progression programs with the goal of increasing the representation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander employees in the ECU workforce.

5 Securing our future

Strategic Priorities

Towards the University of the Future

Course renewal and rationalisation

Strong regional communities

Social change imperatives

Financial sustainability

Key performance indicators

Operating margin

The final KPI is both an **effectiveness** and **efficiency** indicator for Strategic Goal 5.

KPI 8 Operating margin directly measures the financial outcome relating to Strategic Priority 23.

KPI 1

SATISFACTION WITH THE EDUCATIONAL EXPERIENCE

Strategic Goal 1: An exceptional student experience

ECU has a longstanding reputation for high quality teaching: students and graduates have for many years recorded high levels of satisfaction with their learning experiences. The University maintains this focus on the student experience and teaching excellence in the *ECU Strategic Plan 2022–2026*.

Measure

The Student Experience Survey (SES) collects feedback from students on their learning experiences, and the national results are published on the Australian Government’s Quality Indicators for Learning and Teaching (QILT) ComparEd website, which encourages prospective students to compare Australian institutions on such indicators.

This effectiveness indicator measures the satisfaction of undergraduate students with the overall quality of their educational experience, as derived from the SES results.

Performance result

ECU’s performance for the latest reporting year represents a continuation of strong performance on student and graduate satisfaction measures over many years. Although overall satisfaction declined by 2.1 percentage points (from 83.9 per cent in 2021 to 81.8 per cent in 2022), while national results again showed improvement compared to 2021, ECU’s result is 6.2 percentage points above the national average. For the third year in a row, ECU is ranked second nationally and is the highest ranked of the 37 Australian public universities for overall student satisfaction.

Year of survey	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
ECU (%)	83.8	83.3	81.5	83.9	81.8
National average (%)	79.2	78.4	68.3	72.9	75.6
ECU national rank	4	4	2	2	2
Target (national rank)	Top 10	Top 10	Top 10	Top 10	Top 10

Note: The latest available results are for 2022. Data for the 2023 survey year are not available at time of publication.

Source: Social Research Centre – Student Experience Surveys (SES), published on the QILT website and the ComparEd website.

Definition: The percentage of undergraduatedomestic and onshore international studentswhowere satisfied with their overall educational experience in responsetothe singlequestion: ‘Overall qualityof education experience’ in the SES. National averages and ranks include all 37 public universities,the Universityof Notre Dame Australia, and Bond University.

KPI 2

RETENTION OF COMMENCING STUDENTS

Strategic Goal 1: An exceptional student experience

ECU provides a range of support services to help new students in their first year of study. Over 70 per cent of ECU's commencing bachelor students are admitted based on prior vocational education and training (VET) study, secondary education, or work and life experience, so many are unfamiliar with university study and the university environment. Supporting students during their first year of study is critical to their overall success.

Measure

Retention of students from the first year to the second year of study is a key indicator of institutional performance, and a well-established metric used by the sector and government.

Many factors influence student retention, including some that are outside of a university's control, such as employment options, training alternatives, and government financial assistance. Other influences include curriculum design, student support services, entry standards, and academic staff skills. Differences in student demographics also impact on the relative overall retention performance of institutions. For example, mature age students are more likely to discontinue their courses than school leavers, due to external pressures like caring responsibilities and financial commitments.

This effectiveness indicator measures the proportion of all domestic and international bachelor students who commence a course and remain enrolled in the institution in the following year.

Performance result

ECU's performance for the latest reporting year is for students commencing in 2021 and continuing their studies into 2022. ECU's retention rate shows a slight decline compared to 2020, although this is an improvement of 1.6 percentage points over the time series. The ECU result remains below the national average, but the difference has narrowed over the time series, from 5.2 percentage points in 2017 to 3.5 percentage points in 2021.

ECU's student demographics continue to impact performance relative to the sector. The proportion of commencing bachelor course mature age students (aged 25 years and over) at ECU was 30 per cent in 2021, compared to 18 per cent nationally. The mature age cohort is associated with lower retention rates.

Year of commencement	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
ECU (%)	76.3	77.8	78.2	78.3	77.9
National average (%)	81.5	81.7	81.6	82.6	81.4
Target (%)	National av	National av	National av	National av	National av

Note: The latest available results are for 2021. Data for the 2022 commencement year are not available at time of publication.

Source: Australian Government Department of Education's Selected Higher Education Statistics, Student data. For 2021 commencements, see Table 15.9.

Definition: The proportion of all domestic and international bachelor students who commence a course in the specified year and remain enrolled in the following year, excluding students who completed their course. The national average is for Table A and Table B providers only. The reference year is the year of commencement in a course.

KPI 3

GRADUATE EMPLOYMENT

Strategic Goal 1: An exceptional student experience

Good employment outcomes are fundamental to the wellbeing and livelihood of graduates and their communities. ECU continues to improve the career-readiness of its graduates through work-integrated learning, internships, volunteering, student exchange programs, and targeted career advice and support.

Measure

The Graduate Outcomes Survey (GOS) collects feedback from graduates approximately four months after graduation, and the national results are published on the Australian Government's Quality Indicators for Learning and Teaching (QILT) ComparEd website, which encourages prospective students to compare Australian institutions on such indicators.

This effectiveness indicator measures the graduate employment rate for domestic students graduating from all undergraduate courses, as derived from the GOS.

Performance result

ECU's graduate employment rate increased by 3.0 percentage points between 2022 and 2023, and is at its highest level for the time series at 91.0 per cent. The shortfall to the State average reduced to 1.1 percentage points in 2022, the smallest over the time series. The State average result for 2023 is not yet available.

Year of survey	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
ECU (%)	83.1	80.9	82.8	88.0	91.0
State average (%)	84.2	83.3	85.2	89.1	NYA
Target (%)	-	-	-	State av	State av

Note: This was a new KPI from 2022, which replaced the previous measure of graduate employment based on full-time work only. The ECU and State average results for 2019 to 2021 are included to provide a time series for comparison.

Source: Social Research Centre – Graduate Outcomes Surveys, published on the QILT website and the ComparEd website.

Definition: The proportion of domestic undergraduate graduates who were employed full-time or part-time approximately four months after completing their course, as a percentage of those who were available for full-time or part-time employment. 'Available' means, in addition to those already in work, those seeking work. State averages include all WA institutions, and the University of Notre Dame Australia graduates based in Fremantle and Sydney. The survey is conducted in two parts: in November for mid-year completers and in May for end of year completers from the previous year. The ECU result for the 2023 survey relates to all those who completed their courses in 2022. The national dataset for the 2023 survey was not released in time for inclusion in this Annual Report.

KPI 4

RESEARCH
PUBLICATIONS

Strategic Goal 2: Impactful world-class research

Growing research outputs, and the quality of research, so that all of ECU's research is world class, is critical to the future development and sustainability of the University. This will require a step-change in ECU's research capacity and the development of a strong and supportive research culture.

Measure

Growing research outputs, and the quality of research, so that all of ECU's research is world class, is critical to the future development and sustainability of the University. This will require a step-change in ECU's research capacity and the development of a strong and supportive research culture.

Performance result

Between 2021 and 2022, the total number of research outputs increased by 5 per cent, and the efficiency (outputs per 10 FTE) also improved, from 35.6 to 42.8. ECU's performance for 2022 is above the target (national average).

ECU will continue to focus on the growth of its research capacity, including research outputs, as a key priority for the strategic planning period to 2026. ECU's research will be focused in distinctive areas of nationally and internationally recognised excellence, aligned to ECU's course offerings, and to the needs of industry and the community.

Publication year	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Research outputs			1,523	1,613	1,690
Academic research staff FTE			474	453	395
ECU research outputs per 10 FTE			32.1	35.6	42.8
National average outputs per 10 FTE			37.3	40.6	40.5
Target			-	National av	National av

Note: The latest available results are for 2022. Data for the 2023 publication year are not available at time of publication. This KPI has an amended calculation from 2021, where co-authored publications are no longer treated as fractions and the ECU and national average results are included to provide for comparison with 2022 results. Due to the dynamic nature of the data source, earlier year results are not available.

Source: ECU: research outputs (ECU and national) using Scopus datasets. Australian Government Department of Education's Selected Higher Education Statistics, Staff data: staff FTE (ECU and national).

Definition: 2020 research output exported from SciVal on 24 May 2022, from Scopus dataset last updated 18 May 2022. 2021 research output exported from SciVal on 1 August 2022, from Scopus dataset last updated 20 July 2022. 2022 research output exported from SciVal on 1 August 2023. Output data includes all publication types. Outputs are not apportioned in cases of co-authorship. National averages include all 37 public universities, the University of Notre Dame Australia and Bond University. Academic staff FTE is the full-time equivalence of academic staff in work functions 'research only' and 'teaching and research', excluding casual/sessional academic staff.

KPI 5

HIGHER DEGREE BY RESEARCH COMPLETIONS

Strategic Goal 2: Impactful world-class research

Increasing completions of higher degrees by research (doctorates or masters by research qualifications) benefits academia, industry, and society. New ideas provide for new research opportunities and discoveries, and the specialised knowledge of these graduates also benefits employers. Higher degrees by research are also the pathway into academia. Producing an increased number of high-quality graduates benefits ECU's objectives to increase the number of research staff and strengthen succession planning.

Measure

This effectiveness and efficiency indicator measures the doctorates by research and masters by research completions, adjusted for changes in academic staff full-time equivalence numbers (i.e., per 10 FTE), to allow meaningful comparison over time and against national average figures.

Performance result

ECU's performance in the latest reporting year shows an increase in the number of higher degrees by research completions in 2022, and a large increase in the number of completions per 10 FTE, from 2.2 to 3.3. ECU's result for 2022 is well above the national average and is ranked 5th of 39 universities nationally, and top ranked in Western Australia.

ECU will continue to grow supervisor capacity and quality, with additional support services to assist research candidates in completing their research.

Year of completion	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Completions	114	109	114	100	129
Academic research staff FTE	439	459	474	453	395
ECU completions per 10 FTE	2.6	2.4	2.4	2.2	3.3
National av completions per 10 FTE	2.5	2.6	2.4	2.4	2.6
ECU national rank	12	20	15	22	5
Target	Top 10	Top 10	Top 10	National av	National av

Note: The latest available results are for 2022. Data for the 2023 completion year are not available at time of publication. The KPI target is amended from 2021 to compare to the national average, rather than the national rank. Rank results for 2017 to 2020 are included against the previous targets.

Source: Australian Government Department of Education's Selected Higher Education Statistics, Student data: completions counts (ECU and national). Australian Government Department of Education's Selected Higher Education Statistics, Staff data: staff FTE (ECU and national).

Definition: Completions recorded against course levels 'masters by research' and 'doctorates by research'. Academic staff FTE is the full-time equivalence of academic staff in work functions 'research only' and 'teaching and research', excluding casual/sessional academic staff.

KPI 6

INCOME FROM INTERNATIONAL STUDENT FEES

Strategic Goal 3: Leading in internationalisation

ECU aspires to be a leader in international education. The University will provide opportunities for more overseas students to participate in ECU programs by increasing onshore enrolments and by expanding ECU's international presence through teaching delivered outside Australia.

Growth in international student enrolments and international partnerships will provide further opportunities for all students, both domestic and international, to experience an internationalised student experience and become world-ready graduates.

Measure

Income from international student fees is a direct measure of the growth of internationalisation at ECU through onshore and offshore delivery. It is also a measure of the University's diversification of its revenue base and its success in generating income from non-government sources.

This effectiveness indicator measures the total income (or revenue) from fee-paying international students, both onshore and offshore.

Performance result

ECU's international student fee income declined in 2021, reflecting the decrease in international student enrolments and revenue experienced by all Australian universities due to the COVID-19 pandemic. For 2022 income was at 2021 levels, while income in 2023 shows significant growth, reflecting the marked recovery of international student numbers post-pandemic.

ECU's performance was an annual growth for 2023 (compared to 2022) of 73 per cent, while the national average annual growth is not yet available.

Financial year	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
ECU (\$M)	117	120	98	98	170
ECU annual growth (%)	15	3	-19	0	73
National av annual growth (%)	13	-8	-8	NYA ⁽ⁱ⁾	NYA ⁽ⁱ⁾
Target	\$101M	\$108M	\$115M	National av growth	National av growth

Note: The KPI target is amended from 2022 to provide a comparison of ECU annual growth with the national average annual growth. Previous targets are included for 2018 to 2021. (i) Data for the calculation of the national average annual growth rates for 2022 and 2023 are not yet available (NYA) at the time of report publication.

Source: ECU: ECU income. Australian Government Department of Education's Higher Education Publications, Finance Publications: national average income.

Definition: Total income (or revenue) from fee-paying international students onshore and offshore. Revenue is interpreted in accordance with the Australian Accounting Standards.

KPI 7

ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER EMPLOYMENT

Strategic Goal 4: Empowering our staff

The ECU Strategic Plan 2022–2026 includes a commitment to recruiting, supporting, and retaining staff from diverse backgrounds, maintaining an inclusive working environment that demonstrates the University’s contribution to addressing inequities of opportunity in the university sector and in the wider community.

With this Strategic Priority in mind, ECU seeks to improve its Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander employment rate to three per cent by the end of the strategic planning period (2026).

Measure

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander employment is an additional effectiveness indicator for the University’s commitment to a workforce that reflects its communities.

Performance result

ECU has shown improvement in the employment rate for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people over the period 2019 to 2022, but declined in 2023, to 2.0 per cent (38/1880), against a target of 2.7 per cent.

Year	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
ECU (%)	1.7	2.3	2.3	2.4	2.0
Target (%)	-	-	-	2.6	2.7

Note: This KPI was introduced from 2022. The ECU results for 2019 to 2021 are included to provide a time series for comparison.

Source: ECU.

Definition: The number of full-time and fractional full-time professional and academic Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander ECU staff, as a percentage of total ECU staff.

KPI 8

OPERATING MARGIN

Strategic Goal 5: Securing our future

To meet the objectives of the first four strategic goals, the University needs to maintain a sound financial base. Over the past few years, higher education policy changes have limited recurring government funding and removed government support for capital development. Operating surpluses generated by universities provide for building and maintenance of significant infrastructure, the development of new technologies, and other strategic initiatives.

Measure

Operating margin is a key means for the Australian Government to assess the financial wellbeing of universities. As an effectiveness indicator, the operating margin shows the extent to which a university has effectively planned for possible adverse events or conditions. As an efficiency indicator, the operating margin shows whether a university has sufficient resources to run its services. This effectiveness and efficiency indicator measures the net operating result as a proportion of total revenue.

Performance result

ECU's performance in 2023 again exceeded the target. The University's prudent financial management continued to yield a positive result in a challenging fiscal environment.

ECU has consistently demonstrated that it has a sound financial base, with sustainable revenue streams and controlled costs that reliably deliver moderate operating surpluses, meeting or exceeding the four per cent target.

The *ECU Strategic Plan 2022–2026* includes an objective to further strengthen the University's financial sustainability by growing student enrolments, strategically allocating funding, developing further budget flexibility in ECU schools, achieving productivity gains in service centres, and diversifying revenues.

Financial year	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
ECU (%)	7	5	5	8	15
Target (%)	4	4	4	4	4

Source: ECU.

Definition: Operating margin is the net operating result over total revenue, and therefore a direct measure of the underlying financial efficiency of the University. Revenue and expenditure are interpreted in accordance with the Australian Accounting Standards.

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