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Chief Executive Officer

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AFRA Review Team
Foreign Arrangements Branch
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

By email: AFRA.Review@dfat.gov.au

Universities Australia (UA) appreciates the opportunity to contribute to the *Legislative Review of Australia's Foreign Relations (State and Territory Arrangements) Act 2020 (the Foreign Relations Act)*.

Individual universities may make their own detailed submissions. In this collective submission, we offer the following technical comments on the exposure draft of the *Foreign Relations Act Amendment Bill 2026*:

Information sharing – Greater information sharing across government is welcome. We would appreciate clarification on the following points:

- who else might be prescribed by the rules as an *entrusted person*; and
- the purpose of these provisions, as they appear to reflect information-sharing practices already covered by existing clearance and “need to know” principles.

Notification power – The proposed new power for the Minister to request notification of otherwise exempt or subsidiary arrangements appears broad and, depending on how it is intended to be used, could create a considerable additional burden.

Requirement to notify of expired agreements – While UA supports the reduced burden from one-step notification for non-core arrangements, this additional requirement may significantly diminish that benefit. The initial notification process already requires arrangement expiry dates to be provided.

UA requests that these issues be clarified, including through the Explanatory Memorandum, to assist stakeholders in understanding how the changes will operate in practice.

Yours sincerely



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Universities Australia