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Welcoming Universities

How to become an Accredited Welcoming University

Getting Started

As a member of the Welcoming Universities network, your institution can undertake accreditation to assess, strengthen, and celebrate its commitment to belonging, inclusion, access, and equity.

The first step is deciding which accreditation level best reflects your university's current progress and aspirations.

Universities provide evidence of policies, programs, initiatives, and practices aligned with the Welcoming Universities Standard. Assessment against the Standard helps identify strengths, benchmark progress, and uncover opportunities for continuous improvement.

Why Become Accredited?

Accreditation through Welcoming Universities provides a range of benefits:

- Strengthens equity, diversity and inclusion initiatives across the institution.
- Creates a practical framework for planning improvement and change.
- Demonstrates leadership and commitment to welcoming and belonging.
- Enhances institutional reputation among students, staff and partners.
- Provides opportunities for shared learning and collaboration across the sector.

Evidence Categories

The Welcoming Universities Standard provides a comprehensive framework for assessing how effectively universities foster a culture of welcome, belonging and inclusion.

Universities submit evidence demonstrating how policies, leadership, programs and practices contribute to positive outcomes for students, staff and the wider university community.

Assessment provides clear insights into areas of achievement and opportunities for future growth.

October 2026

Accreditation Levels

Member

A **Member University** has joined the Welcoming Universities network and signalled its commitment to creating a culture of welcome and belonging.

Membership provides access to resources, support, shared learning opportunities and guidance for institutions considering accreditation.

Established Welcoming University

An **Established Welcoming University** has demonstrated foundational policies, practices and initiatives that support inclusion and belonging across the institution.

Established accreditation provides a clear assessment of current performance and recognises a university's commitment to continuous improvement.

Assessment

- Evidence submitted against the Welcoming Universities Standard.
- Independent assessment by Welcoming Universities.
- Accreditation awarded for four years.

Advanced Welcoming University

An **Advanced Welcoming University** demonstrates leadership through established programs, partnerships and institutional practices that foster welcoming and inclusive environments for students and staff.

Advanced accreditation recognises universities that are embedding inclusive practice and delivering measurable impact across multiple areas of university life.

Assessment

- Comprehensive evidence demonstrating advanced achievement against the Standard.
- Independent assessment and verification by Welcoming Universities.
- Accreditation awarded for four years.

Accreditation Fees

Level	Cost
Established	$2,000 (4-year accreditation)
Advanced	$5,000 (4-year accreditation)

All prices ex GST

These fees cover all costs associated with the accreditation assessment process.

Ongoing Recognition

To ensure policies, programs and evidence remain current and relevant, accreditation must be renewed every four years.

Universities may maintain their accreditation level or choose to undertake assessment at a different level during renewal.

Contact

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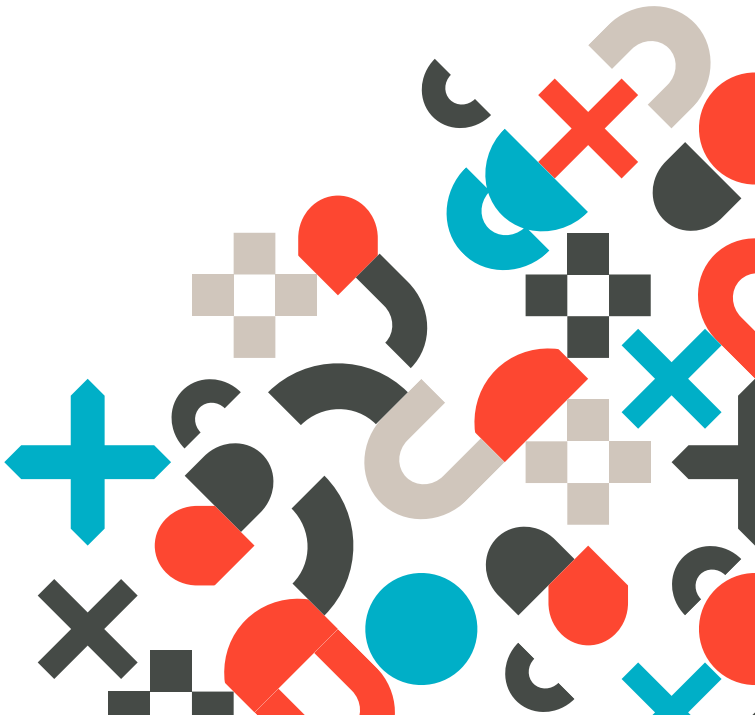
Welcoming Universities

Welcoming Universities is an initiative supporting institutions to build cultures of welcome, belonging and inclusion across Australian higher education.