

Dear members

It's been a busy start to the year for me personally and professionally, however, this has not deterred the Executive from the important and current issues facing our sector in relation to the safety and well-being of all of our students.

At the start of the year, the Executive held a strategic planning day in Sydney at St Andrew's College to identify key priorities for the year ahead. Wayne Erickson generously hosted a very enjoyable dinner for the Executive and College heads within the University of Sydney.

Our priority has been finalising the establishment of UCA's working party '**Respectful Relations - Response and Resources Advisory Group**' to lead the response, and act to ensure the safety and wellbeing of our students as part of the response of Recommendation 9 of the AHRC report and in also considering the recommendations from the UNSW HRC report [On Safe Ground](#)

Chaired by [Julie McKay](#), I am delighted that we have been able to bring together a range of experts on gender equity, sexual violence and alcohol and drugs. Membership of the Advisory Group also comprises a diverse and experienced group of individuals drawn from our stakeholders who have been working at the frontline of student welfare and well-being and in student residences for many years. Biographies of the membership will be made available to members shortly.

Respectful Relations – Response and Resources Advisory Group Members:

- *Independent Expert* as Chair - Julie McKay, Partner PwC
- Jessica Wirawan, Manager, Diversity and Inclusion, PwC
- *Expert in prevention of sexual assault and sexual harassment* - Cara Gleeson, Our Watch, Manager, Practice Systems
- *Drug and Alcohol expert* –Andy Gourley, Red Frogs Australia
- *UCA Executive Member* and head of an affiliated residential College - Thomas Mitchell, Head of College, St Thomas More College, University of Western Australia
- *UCA Member* and head of a university managed residential College, Isabelle Creagh, Head, Kensington Colleges, University of New South Wales, Sydney
- *Student Representative (Postgraduate)* –Natasha Abrahams, PhD candidate and President, Council of Australian Postgraduate Association and President Monash Postgraduate Association
- *Student Representative* representing International Students - Mr Yohan Nair, PhD Candidate and Deputy Director, International House, University of Queensland
- *Student Representative*, Josh Carter, President National Association of Australian University Colleges
- Ex Officio –Rose Alwyn, President UCA and Dr Carla Tromans, Vice President UCA

- By invitation to specific meetings – Camilla Gebicki, the Australian Human Rights Commission

The [Terms of Reference](#) have been drafted and there may be minor iterations as the need arises.

It is envisaged that the Advisory Group will meet for an initial period of six months to establish a framework of good practice. In acknowledging that some good practice already exists between the different colleges and residences, part of the Advisory Committee's role will be identifying and sharing those examples. The group will seek to engage members initially via a survey and will share initial findings in September at the Forum in Hobart. Please keep your eye out for the survey in the coming weeks.

I am appreciative of the Advisory Group's commitment in working together to achieve stronger and safer residences and to ensure that our students pride themselves on respectful relationships and the achievement of equity for all. The Executive Committee shares my confidence that their work will enable our residences to prevent and better respond to sexual violence which is a priority for all university residences.

I will provide monthly updates to members on the work of the Advisory Committee.

Independent Expert Led Reviews

Since the release of the Human Rights' Commission's Report many colleges, both together and independently, have commenced independent expert led reviews the first of which was the [Broderick Review](#) of five of the Sydney Colleges. Elizabeth Broderick will also lead the review of [James Cook University](#) and the Human Rights Commission will lead the review of the [University of New England colleges](#). [ANU](#) has recently released its tender for review of their residences and UWA and Deakin University have commenced review processes and KPMG has commenced its review of behaviour and culture at St Mark's College in Adelaide.

UCA encourages all members to work collaboratively with their host universities in relation to processes, policies and procedures with respect to the prevention of and responses to SASH and student safety and well-being.

Tertiary Education Quality Standards Authority (TEQSA)

I have met with the CEO of TEQSA Anthony McClaran and his Assurance Team, Dr Michael Tomlinson and Dr Jen Drysdale, the lead Assurance team. TEQSA have advised that they are closely monitoring on the sector's response and will report to the Minister on progress being made. A copy of their Guidance note on Wellbeing and Safety can be found [here](#).

Education and Training Resources

This year, colleges and halls of residences have adopted a range of training and educational initiatives both face to face, delivered SASH experts from local Rape and Domestic Violence Services and other providers such as the YWCA's program "Rise above the Pack" and online through Consent Matters. We look forward to sharing resources with members through our Advisory Group on good practice initiatives.

The future of Australian University Residential Colleges

New member, Andrew Swan, Head of Campbell Hall at Monash University is undertaking his PhD research on 'the Future of Independent and Affiliated Residential Colleges at Australian Universities'. His study responds to the climate of uncertainty surrounding colleges to explore the question of 'what will Australian colleges look like in the year 2040?' It will use the business methodology of scenario planning to develop at least four alternative scenarios that describe how colleges might evolve, including how current trends will unfold, how critical uncertainties could play out and what new forces may come into play. It is hoped that, through this study, colleges will be better able to develop future-oriented strategy, to anticipate events that are likely to impact their success, and that it will facilitate organizational learning for the college leaders who take part enabling them to make better decisions.

Andrew is eager to engage UCA members in his study, so watch this space to see how you can assist, or contact Andrew directly.

Partners

The 27th StarRez APSAA conference will be in the Gold Coast which kicks off with a pre-conference study tour from 9-14 May which will commence in Brisbane also visiting accommodation facilities in S-E Queensland before the pre-conference summit on Crisis Management on 13th May. The conference concludes on 17th May and more information can be found on the [APSAA website](#). We look forward to signing a new MOU with APSAA at their conference.

NAAUC will hold its final mid-year [conference](#) this year which will also mark their 50th anniversary. It will be held at Cromwell College UQ from 1st – 7th July. Registration is open now and here are a range of scholarships available for students so please encourage your students to apply for these and to attend the conference.

Rose Alwyn

President