



*Better Leaders,
Better Collegiate Life*

UCA STATEMENT ON RELEASE OF UNIVERSITIES AUSTRALIA'S GUIDELINES FOR UNIVERSITY RESPONSES TO SEXUAL ASSAULT AND SEXUAL HARASSMENT

Comments attributable to the President, Ms Rose Alwyn, 20th July 2018

University Colleges Australia resoundingly supports Universities Australia's 'Guidelines for University Responses to Sexual Assault and Sexual Harassment' which were released today.

The wellbeing and needs of our students are at the centre of what we do. We want all our students to have the confidence that if they experience or witness sexual assault that they will be listened to, that they will be believed and that they will be supported.

In April this year, UCA formed an Advisory Group chaired by Ms Julie McKay, one of Australia's leading experts in gender and equality. Other representatives on the Group also include current university students, heads of independent and university-managed residences and experts on sexual assault and alcohol harm minimisation.

The key purpose of this group is to develop a resource base that identifies good practice aimed at eliminating and preventing sexual assault and sexual harassment within the sector and to drive important cultural change.

Colleges and halls of residences have also established partnerships with local rape and domestic violence services and other experts who are providing first responder training for staff and residential advisors.

UCA affirms its commitment to the provision of safe and secure living and learning communities that are places of safety and respect for all; free from all forms of violence and intimidation, sexual assault, harassment, hazing and discrimination.

UCA looks forward to continuing to collaborate with Universities Australia and all our college's affiliated universities on this important issue.

Ends
