

Media statement

6 May 2024

IRU welcomes the appointment of new Vice-Chancellor at Western Sydney University

The Innovative Research Universities (IRU) welcomes the appointment of Professor George Williams AO as the new Vice-Chancellor at Western Sydney University.

IRU Chair Professor Simon Biggs (Vice-Chancellor and President of James Cook University) said that Professor Williams will join WSU at a time of great opportunity for the university sector, as we work with government to deliver on a long-term reform agenda through the Universities Accord.

“On behalf of our members, I congratulate Professor Williams and welcome him to the IRU,” he said.

“His commitment to equity and inclusion and his extensive leadership experience – both in his current role at UNSW and as a respected legal scholar and public intellectual – will strengthen the work of our group.”

“I also acknowledge previous WSU Vice-Chancellor Professor Barney Glover AO and Interim Vice-Chancellor Professor Clare Pollock, who have both made enormous contributions to the IRU.”

IRU Executive Director Paul Harris said that he is looking forward to working with Professor Williams as the IRU continues to advocate for education and research policy reform through the Universities Accord that will help to create a more equitable and innovative Australia.

“Like all IRU members, Western Sydney University plays a critical role in widening higher education participation and in the economic and social success of its community. The insight and experience that Professor Williams brings in working with government and contributing to public debate on key issues for the nation will greatly enhance the IRU’s voice in public policy.”

About the IRU

The IRU is a network of seven comprehensive universities across Australia committed to inclusive education and research with impact. Its members are Flinders University, Griffith University, James Cook University, La Trobe University, Murdoch University, University of Canberra, and Western Sydney University.

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