commitment to excellence
The Group of Eight Universities (Go8) comprises Australia’s eight leading research Universities – The University of Melbourne, The Australian National University, The University of Sydney, The University of Queensland, The University of Western Australia, The University of Adelaide, Monash University and UNSW Australia.

Being Chair of Australia’s Group of Eight research intensive Universities (Go8) is an enormous privilege. I am proud that as a group of Universities with members in each mainland State and the Australian Capital Territory, our standards of teaching and research are absolute.

As a group we place great store on quality, results, values, equity and choice for our students. Each year we provide Australia with some 90,000 quality graduates. Those graduates benefit from much better student staff ratios than at other Australian Universities. And through our position as the most research-intensive group of Australian Universities they also have access to a unique research-based experience.

As Chair I am vehement that the Go8 must be able to provide our undergraduates from disadvantaged backgrounds with the support and education that currently delivers them better outcomes in terms of retention and success than at other Australian Universities.

The quality students our eight Universities attract come from all walks of life. Ensuring every quality student can have a quality outcome at the University of their choice is a Go8 imperative.

Teaching however is only one component of the Go8’s significant contribution to society and to the economy. In 2013 (the last year for which data is available) the Go8 received research income of some $2.4 Billion. In fact, we attract some 73% of all competitive grants awarded to Australian Universities. We take great pride in the fact that our research, in particular our medical research, every day positively impacts the lives of people around the globe.

Our International profile is equally strong. We are consistently the highest Australian Universities in world rankings, with each of our members within the world’s Top 200 Universities. This assists our eight Universities attract one in three of the International students who choose to study in Australia.

In total the Go8 has much to be proud of. It comes from commitment to excellence. We demand of ourselves what we expect of our students and our researchers. It delivers results.

Professor Ian Young AO Chair

Excellence & results
The Go8 was incorporated in 1999 and its Directorate is based in Australia’s capital city, Canberra. The Directorate is focussed on, and is a leader in, influencing the development and delivery of long-term sustainable national higher education and research policy, and in developing International alliances.

Our aim: to lead

The Group of Eight (Go8) is proud to represent Australia’s leading research Universities. At the Go8 both our research and our teaching deliver global impact.

We educate more than 23% of Australia’s undergraduate students; while one in three International students who choose to study in Australia come to a Go8 University, and at a Go8 University, one in 12 students is a research student compared to one in 30 for the rest of the sector.

We celebrate excellence, welcoming quality students who become quality graduates and importantly the leaders of tomorrow, both in Australia and overseas.

We have, for example, educated 79% of Australia’s Chief Executives of our nation’s top companies. We have also educated every Nobel Prize winner educated in an Australian University, while many of our International alumni are visible leaders in their careers around the world.

We have the long traditions of being Australia’s first, and still premier, group of Universities. We consider ourselves elite but not elitist and while we embrace our long traditions as a valued and valuable foundation, we do not lean on them to deliver us a viable future – rather we have a culture of embracing change.

We ensure we lead; in research where we account for two thirds of all research funding to Australian Universities, and where we spent some $6 Billion in 2012 (over $2 Billion of that on medical research) and we also lead in national debate. We take pride in our consistently high world rankings.

The Go8 makes a strong contribution to Australia’s economy. We directly support 50,000 jobs and are a major export industry with overseas earnings in 2013 of $1.9 Billion. That year we generated income of $11.4 Billion; 43% of sector earnings.

Our aim is clearly defined. To lead, and to ensure our teaching and research deliver global impact.

Vicki Thomson
Chief Executive
Excellence & results

Being Chair of Australia’s Group of Eight research intensive Universities (Go8) is an enormous privilege. I am proud that as a group of Universities with members in each mainland State and the Australian Capital Territory, our standards of teaching and research are absolute.

As a group we place great store on teaching excellence, research and discovery. Each year we provide over 250,000 undergraduate graduates. These graduates benefit not only the students themselves but also their communities of origin. They have access to a range of courses and opportunities that benefit them but also deliver their better outcomes in terms of retention rates, student staff ratios and better student outcomes.

As Chair I am pledged that the Go8 will continue to invest in its undergraduate students. By doing so, we aim to ensure that they can benefit from a wide range of opportunities that will position them well for careers in research, education and industry.

Our International profile is equally strong. We are consistently the highest ranked Australian Universities in the world. All Go8 Universities are in the top 100, with six in the QS top 100 (the last year for which data is available) we received $2.4 Billion. The Go8 is an enormous privilege.

As a group we place great store on excellence. We demand of ourselves and our students the highest possible standards and quality in all that we do. This is the hallmark of our Universities.

We are also very proud of our research achievements. In 2014 as judged by Australia’s National Assessment for Research in Australia” (ERA) quality evaluation of research in Australian Universities it was found that:

- Go8 Universities deliver 42% of Australia’s “above world class” research
- Go8 Universities’ “above world class standard” research is twice the rate of the rest of the sector.

The quality of our students and their performance is also high. In 2014 the Go8 graduated some 92,000 students. In 2014/15 all Go8 Universities are ranked in the top 100 of the world’s best universities. The Go8 is comprised of Australia’s leading research universities.

Recognition of achievement

The work of our students and graduates is the benefit of all of us. Every year the Go8 graduates almost 40,000 students which has all eight Go8 Universities in its top 50. Of the 40,000 graduates, some 25,000 obtain postgraduate degrees in Australia.

Our students: leaders of tomorrow

The Go8 is proud of its reputation for accepting quality students and delivering quality graduates. Our eight Universities educate over 250,000 students, 42% of all Australian tertiary students. For some 45,000 of our students, the Go8 Universities are their first choices to study at a University.

Importantly, Go8 student entry standards and median scores are above the nation’s average. Some 56% of the percentage of students at all eight universities are graduates from Go8 University. In 2014 the Go8 graduated some 15,000 students.

The Go8 educates more than 63% of all undergraduate students, at all levels of study, are the first choice of students from a regional or remote home location. All Go8 Universities are in the top 100 for medicine, dentistry and veterinary education and graduate knowledge and science students.

Our faculty members are university leaders and many have been awarded the Australian of the Year award. The Go8 Universities are consistently ranked in the top 100 of the most influential universities in the world. The 2015 QS World University Rankings highlights all Go8 Universities in the top 100.

The Go8 Universities are consistently ranked in the top 100 of the most influential universities in the world. In 2014/15 all Go8 Universities are ranked in the top 50 of the QS World University Rankings by subject area. All law schools in the top 100, with six in the top 50 and four in the top 20.

All Go8 Universities are in the top 100 for medicine, psychology and education.

All Go8 Universities have at least one field of engineering in the top 100.