

PART ONE: OVERVIEW

A MESSAGE FROM THE CHANCELLOR AND VICE-CHANCELLOR

As we reflect on the past year at the University of Newcastle, we are filled with pride and gratitude for the remarkable achievements and milestones we have reached together.

In the first half of 2024, we welcomed the Universities Accord, which was a significant milestone and will provide a framework for the higher education sector. With the target for 80 per cent of Australia's workforce to have a tertiary qualification by 2050, the Accord's recommendations should shape the sector over the years to come. We hope it will improve the quality, accessibility, affordability and sustainability of the higher education sector.

As the Accord's recommendations were released, it was fitting that in 2024 we celebrated 50 years of Open Foundation. Open Foundation and our pathway programs have been a cornerstone of our University, providing students with the opportunity to access higher education and achieve their academic and career goals. Our dedication to equity was further recognised when we won the prestigious Australian Financial Review Higher Education Awards for both our Pathway Programs and Quality Teaching Rounds. These accolades are a testament to the hard work and dedication of our staff and the success of our students. They highlight our unwavering commitment to creating pathways for all students, regardless of their background, to achieve their full potential.

Our commitment to equity was further reaffirmed when we became one of the first two universities in Australia to receive a Science in Australia Gender Equity (SAGE) Athena Swan Silver Award. These awards acknowledge our University's ongoing commitment to fostering a supportive and inclusive university environment.

This year, we proudly hosted the Times Higher Education (THE) Campus Live ANZ conference at our University. This event brought together thought leaders, educators, and researchers from across the Asia Pacific region to discuss the future of higher education. It was an enriching experience that showcased our University's role as a leader in global education.

2024 marked the anniversary of 20 years of ResTech - a joint venture between Ampcontrol and our University. ResTech is a collaborative Living Lab that brings together the skill, knowledge and diversity of a local industry leader, alongside our university students and staff. Importantly, it provides opportunities for our students to work with industry leaders on challenging research projects.

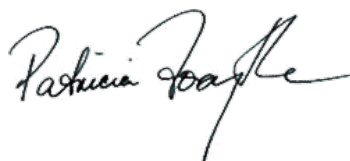
Work on our City Campus Student Accommodation in the heart of the Newcastle also progressed during 2024 and following extensive consultation, we submitted a State Significant Development Application (SSDA). The new building is anticipated to open in 2027 and will house up to 445 beds. We hope this new building will offer students an inner-city experience, while injecting vibrancy into the area.

On the Central Coast, we saw our new Central Coast Campus building on Mann Street in Gosford take shape. This new campus reaffirms our commitment to the Central Coast and will provide opportunities for Central Coast students to study close to home, help close skill gaps, and create new jobs for the community. The project is on track for completion in the second half of 2025.

As with every year, 2024 came with many challenges. The higher education sector faced significant financial constraints and uncertainty around international student numbers. Growth in our domestic student numbers helped to offset the reduction in international student enrolments. However, our core operational costs still exceed the University's operational income. These challenges will continue to impact the sector for years to come and we, like many universities, will be forced to make difficult decisions to ensure our long-term financial sustainability. Despite these hurdles, we have continued to provide high-quality education and support to our students, ensuring that they have the resources and opportunities they need to succeed.

As we look ahead and next year move into our 60th anniversary, we remain committed to being a university of both equity and excellence, fostering an inclusive and dynamic learning environment and undertaking globally recognised research. We are confident that with the continued support of our community, we will overcome any challenges and achieve even greater success in the years to come. Our vision for the future is one of growth, innovation, and impact, where we continue to lead, inspire and provide opportunities for everyone to access higher education.

Thank you for being a part of our journey. Your support and dedication are what make our achievements possible, and we look forward to continuing this journey together.



The Hon Patricia Forsythe AM
Chancellor



Professor Alex Zelinsky AO
Vice-Chancellor and President