Operational performance

Government objectives for the community

With the underpinning principles of integrity, accountability and consultation, which are applied to carry out the activities outlined in this report, UQ contributes to the Queensland Government’s key objectives for the community:

- create jobs in a strong economy
- give all our children a great start
- keep Queenslanders healthy
- keep communities safe
- protect the Great Barrier Reef
- be a responsive government.

UQ contributes directly to creating jobs in a strong economy by engaging more young Queenslanders in education, and both directly and indirectly — through its research and community liaison activities — to advance Queensland’s other priorities.

Our objectives and performance indicators

In order to achieve our vision of knowledge leadership for a better world, we require sustained focus and a commitment to our three long-term objectives.

To: transform students into game-changing graduates who make outstanding contributions and address complex issues with a global perspective, we will go beyond ensuring that we develop graduates who can easily gain employment. UQ’s students are motivated and highly capable; we want to develop an educational experience that maximises our students’ personal and academic development. We will support them to become enterprising, independent thinkers with the leadership, creativity and problem-solving skills that empower them to create positive change within industry, academia, the workplace, and society more generally.

To deliver globally significant solutions to challenges by generating new knowledge and partnered innovation, we continue to expect that research will be undertaken at the highest academic standard with the highest ethical principles. UQ remains committed to both fundamental and translational research. However, we will be focusing on working with others — both internally through collaborations that cut across disciplinary and organisational boundaries, and externally through partnerships and networks. We will become a hub that brings the best expertise together to creatively solve complex problems through research and innovation. This ethos will also be reflected in our approach to teaching.

To develop a diverse community of knowledge seekers and leaders who embody a One UQ culture and use collaborative partnerships to connect and co-create, we hope to bring together different perspectives and experiences in order to find solutions to global challenges and provide an enriched learning experience. Through a One UQ culture we can create an environment that is inclusive and collaborative to ensure that we work together in pursuit of our strategic objectives. Universities must reflect wider society — working with and for the broader community. Through collaborative external partnerships we can create the connections and networks necessary to understand the needs of industry, government and the community and work with others to meet those needs; this applies to both our teaching and research endeavours.

To pursue these objectives, we have developed six strategic focus areas, or indicators:

1. Transforming our student experience through a flexible, integrated and partnered learning environment
2. Enhancing our high-quality research by improving our capacity to collaborate to achieve greater impact
3. Building engaged and strategic partnerships with a broad range of local and global networks
4. Committing to activities that attract, support and retain a diverse and inclusive community of high-achieving staff and students
5. Building an agile, responsive and efficient University operation
6. Diversifying our income streams and managing our resources to establish a sustainable financial base

Our strategic plan

We are currently developing a Strategic Plan 2022–2025. The plan will set UQ’s vision for the next five years and outline our priorities as we work towards achieving greater impact and relevance in a global context.

The plan will describe the external environment and strategic context in which UQ operates. It will consider four key areas:

1. Growth in philanthropic income to $500 million
2. An increase in the percentage of our students who come from low socio-economic, or regional or remote backgrounds
3. A commitment to activities that attract, support and retain a diverse and inclusive community of high-achieving staff and students
4. Building an agile, responsive and efficient University operation
5. Diversifying our income streams and managing our resources to establish a sustainable financial base

The quest to protect the Great Barrier Reef was given a boost with the discovery by UQ researchers that coral spawning more than once a year can improve the reef’s resilience.