

29 May 2026

Ms Alison Marchant MP
Chair, Legislative Assembly Economy and Infrastructure Committee
Parliament House
Spring Street
EAST MELBOURNE VIC 3002

Dear Ms Marchant

I write following my recent appearance before the Committee. I appreciated the opportunity to contribute to the Committee's important focus on university governance and its role in strengthening transparency, accountability, and public confidence in the sector.

Attached is a copy of my testimony in the *Proof Version of Hansard* with marked-up corrections to factual or grammatical errors.

I take the opportunity to clarify a statement made during the hearing that could be interpreted in a way that does not fully reflect the intended meaning, and to provide a response to a question taken on notice. I consider it important that the record accurately captures both the substance and context of the evidence provided.

In reviewing the proof transcript of the hearing, I wish to clarify the statement below:

Sharon PICKERING (P50)

... For example, in our annual report this year we have now included a very extensive governance statement that includes many of the recommendations that we have had an opportunity to assess ourselves against and then implement. I think that it would be a really important opportunity for members of the Parliament, members of the government, to sit down with individual universities or a group of university leadership and discuss those pieces, because we are required by law to report on those within our annual report to the Parliament.

Monash provides information on governance in our annual report, which is tabled in the Victorian Parliament and is available on our website. The 2025 annual report includes an extensive Governance Statement by reference to the Principles recommended by the Expert Council on University Governance (October 2025), which the Commonwealth Minister for Education has said publicly will be incorporated into the Higher Education Standards Framework (Threshold Standards) 2021 made under the *Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Authority Act 2011* (Cth). We expect that all universities will be required to report against those Principles to the Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Authority (TEQSA). It could be interpreted from my statement that the requirement to report against those Principles sits within Victorian legislation.

Professor Sharon Pickering
Vice-Chancellor and President
Chancellery, 27 Chancellors Walk, Clayton Campus
Monash University, VIC 3800, Australia

Question on Notice:

Anthony CIANFLONE: (P54)

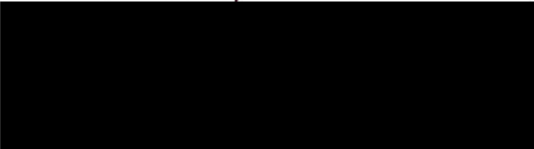
...can I ask – notwithstanding we have just had a ministerial reshuffle and the new minister has just come in, so putting that aside for a second – how many times and how often did you meet with the previous minister for tertiary or higher education and TAFE in Victoria?

I commenced as Vice Chancellor and President of Monash University in January 2024. From that time until April 2026, I held one face-to-face meeting with the previous Minister, the Hon Gayle Tierney MP (30 mins at her Parliamentary office). In addition, I had one phone teleconference in May 2024, and the previous Minister attended one Monash University-hosted event (off campus in the Monash Technology Precinct). Since I became Vice Chancellor, Monash has issued multiple invitations to the previous Ministers to visit one of our campuses.

Over this period, the Minister occasionally attended Victorian Vice Chancellor Committee meetings. These meetings bring all Victorian vice chancellors together.

Please do not hesitate to contact me should you wish to further discuss matters raised in this letter. Alternatively, the Committee Secretary can contact Mr Ben Vivekanandan, Senior Director Government Relations, on telephone: 0428 217 127 or email: ben.vivekanandan@monash.edu.

Yours sincerely



Professor Sharon Pickering
Vice-Chancellor and President

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