

Annual Operational Plan: Delivering the ACDS Strategic Plan 2026–2030

The Initiatives outlined below, complemented by ACDS Core activities, give effect to the 2026 ACDS Annual Operational Plan.

Strategic Goal	Initiative Title	Description of Initiative	Primary Outputs / Deliverables
Goal 1: Champion Teaching & Learning Leadership	1.1 Teaching and Learning Grants Scheme	Fund small, cross-institutional T&L research projects to drive innovation, collaboration and national dissemination of best practice.	7 grants awarded; ACSME presentations; published resources and findings.
	1.2 Generative AI in Science Education	Advance sector-wide understanding of GenAI in science education through leadership dialogue and communities of practice.	Position paper; CoP events; leadership discussions.
Goal 2: Strengthen Pathways for Research & Research Translation	2.1 ACDS Science Research & Research Translation Centre (SR2TC)	Establish a national centre to coordinate research leadership, translation narratives and partnerships.	Centre vision; web platform; success stories; career narratives; quarterly newsletter.
	2.2 Research Translation Workshop	Build capability in university–industry research translation through practical, industry-informed workshops.	Delivered workshop; industry participation; published partnership guidelines.
Goal 3: Build Influence Through Strategic Engagement and Communication	3.1 External communication on the value of university science	Deliver a coordinated external communications program to articulate the value of university science.	Two digital magazine editions; national campaign; media releases; articles in The Conversation.
	3.2 Satellite workshop on engagement and advocacy at Annual Conference	Build advocacy and engagement capability through a co-designed, industry-focused pre-conference workshop.	Delivered workshop; attendee participation; updated engagement guidelines.

	3.3 Deepen partnerships with peer peak bodies	Strengthen influence through structured engagement with peer organisations and joint policy development.	Joint statements; partnership meetings; coordinated messaging.
	3.4 Improve internal communication and engagement	Enhance internal communication through more frequent, curated updates for member Deans.	Quarterly newsletter; bi-monthly updates; member engagement activities.
Goal 4: Strengthen First Nations Partnerships and Engagement in University Science	4.1 Discussion Paper to Inform Future First Nations Initiatives	Develop an evidence-informed foundation to guide future First Nations strategy and initiatives.	Discussion paper; First Nations consultation; Executive-endorsd paper.
	4.2 Partner-Based Advisory Support for First Nations Engagement	Identify appropriate mechanisms for culturally informed advice through partnerships rather than new structures.	Advisory pathway options; summary of consultations; recommendations to Executive.
	4.3 Yarning Circles for ACDS Members	Facilitate culturally safe engagement to listen to and learn from First Nations perspectives in university science.	Delivered yarning circles; participant feedback; summary insights paper.