



Responsible officer	Quality Manager
Contact	quality@aut.edu.au
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Review date	06 February 2029
Superseded documents	N/A
Related Documents	<i>Higher Education Standards Management Policy</i> <i>Higher Education Standards Management Procedure</i> <i>Affiliation Procedure- Business Process</i> <i>Institutional Approval Criteria</i>
Related HE Standards	1.4.2, 2.2.1, 3.1.3

1. PURPOSE

To encourage and ensure engagement by affiliated colleges with their local and regional communities, and the affiliated colleges' related agencies, and to likewise encourage a commitment to social responsibility in their activities.

2. DEFINITIONS

Definitions for any words in **Bold** in this document can be found in the [Policy Glossary](#). The first instance of each defined term has been outlined in bold.

3. SCOPE

This policy applies to all affiliated colleges of the AUT.

4. POLICY STATEMENT

The Australian University of Theology affirms the biblical mandate to strive towards a just and compassionate society. Therefore, the AUT is committed as a Christian educational institution to understanding our society and contributing to its well-being. The AUT also desires to produce graduates who contribute to society, bringing a Christian perspective to bear as they engage with their society, and be people of influence within their communities.

To ensure these purposes are met, affiliated colleges are expected to have a community engagement plan and to regularly review their progress against planned objectives. The AUT will be responsible for monitoring the community development plans of the colleges and their progress in meeting the objectives of these plans.

5. PRINCIPLES

- 5.1 Each affiliated college must have a community engagement plan approved by its governing body.
- 5.2 The plan should address engagement with the affiliated college's local, regional and, if warranted, international communities.
- 5.3 The plan should also state agreements with related agencies, outlining the objectives and mutual benefits of these relationships.



- 5.4 The plan should seek to meet needs and provide other benefits to the communities through community engagement projects, and foster understanding between the affiliated college and its communities.
- 5.5 The plan should also address how planned community engagement projects will integrate with the learning and research objectives of the affiliated college.
- 5.6 The plan needs to demonstrate awareness of the social impact of any actions to be taken, and be implemented in a socially responsible manner.
- 5.7 Each affiliated college must indicate how the objectives and projects of its plans will be resourced.
- 5.8 The plan should state key performance indicators to facilitate review, evaluation and development of the plan.
- 5.9 An annual review procedure to evaluate progress and outcomes against the key performance indicators should be established by the affiliated college. This review should also examine the impact of engagement with communities and related agencies across the affiliated college's curriculum, teaching, learning and research activities.
- 5.10 A record of this review and its outcomes should be kept for five (5) years by the affiliated college.
- 5.11 The plan should be developed on the basis of the review outcomes to enhance the effectiveness of the affiliated college's community engagement.
- 5.12 The implementation of the plan, its outcomes, review process and findings should be reported each year to the AUT office in the affiliated college's annual report. This report should include progress measured against the key performance indicators of the plan.
- 5.13 The AUT will monitor the plans of the affiliated colleges and the progress of these plans by means of the annual reports and will report on the community engagement of the consortium to relevant bodies.

6. RELATED LEGISLATION

Higher Education Standards Framework

7. REFERENCES

N/A



8. VERSION HISTORY

Version	Approved by	Approval Date	Effective Date	Changes made
1	Academic Board	11 th March 2016	11 th March 2016	New policy written
2	Academic Board	07 August 2020	07 August 2020	Updated template and legislation references
3	Vice-Chancellor	June 2025	June 2025	New policy format, minor editorial updates to implement university status.
4	Academic Board	06 February 2026	06 February 2026	Added related documents and HESF Standards

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