OZCAB 2026 Program

Thursday, 12 November 2026

8.30 am	**Registration**
9.00am	**Welcome and Opening Address** **Professor Colm Harmon, Provost, Edith Cowan University**
9.10am - 10.10am	**The Australian Tertiary Education Commission** **Professor Barney Glover, Chief Commissioner Australian Tertiary Education Commission (ATEC)** *Understanding the role and implications of ATEC for Australian higher education.*
10.10am - 10.30am	Morning Tea and Networking
10.30am - 11.30am	**International Perspectives on Transnational Education Governance** **Professor Xiotian Zhang DVC Global, Curtin University** **John Bolton, Executive Director, International Branch Campuses, Deakin** **Associate Professor Maggie Jiang, Associate Pro Vice-Chancellor (Global Engagement), UWA** **Dr Gregory Cusack, Chief Coursework Officer and Deputy Dean, Portfolio of the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Education), Monash** *A panel discussion exploring emerging governance challenges and opportunities in TNE partnerships.*
11.30am - 12.30 pm	**The National Student Ombudsman:** **Sarah Bendell, First Assistant Ombudsman** *How complaints shape governance outcomes- emerging intelligence and what the Ombudsman sees across the sector.*
12.30 pm - 1.15pm	Lunch
1.15pm - 2.15pm	**Regulatory Update:**

	Jen Bahen, Executive Director, Regulatory Operations TEQSA *Insights from TEQSA on current priorities and developments affecting the sector.*
2.15- 2.30pm	*Conference Updates and Housekeeping*
2.30pm - 3.30pm	**Best Practice in Academic Governance: Session A** *Showcasing innovative approaches and practical lessons from across the sector.*
3.30pm - 3.50pm	Afternoon Refreshments
3.50pm - 4.50pm	**Sector Benchmarking and Emerging Trends** **Professor Ehsan Gharaie, Chair Academic Board RMIT** *Sharing approaches to monitoring performance, quality and governance effectiveness.*
6.00pm - 9.00pm	**OZCAB Annual Dinner** **Alba – Yagan Square** **376/420 Wellington St. Perth** *An opportunity to connect with colleagues from across the sector in an informal setting.*

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8.45am - 9.30am	**Prof. Garth Maker, President of Academic Council, Murdoch University** **Dr Verity Morgan Director of Quality & Standards/University Secretary, Murdoch University** *Effective Induction and Development for Academic Board Members: Exploring contemporary approaches to preparing members for effective governance.*
9.30am - 10.15am	**Michele Clark, Assistant Secretary of the Higher Education Gender-based Violence Regulator** *Addressing Gender-based Violence in Higher Education: Governance Responsibilities and Emerging Regulatory Priorities.*

10.15am - 10.45am	Morning Tea
10.45am - 11.30am	**Ms Gaye McMath, Chancelor, Edith Cowan University** **Emeritus Professor Robyn Owens AM, Deputy Chancelor, Murdoch University** *Chancellors' Panel: Reflections on governance, leadership and the future of Australian higher education.*
11.30am - 12.30pm	**Best Practice in Academic Governance: Session B** *Case studies and lessons learned from across the university sector.*
12.30pm - 1.00pm	Lunch
1.00pm - 1.30pm	Campus Tour Explore Edith Cowan University's new City Campus.
1.30pm - 2.30pm	**Towards Greater Harmonisation in Higher Education** **Anthony Mitri Western Sydney University** *Examining current initiatives, challenges and opportunities for sector-wide alignment.* *Sharing best practice and ideas.*
2.30pm - 3.00pm	**Conference Close and Handover to James Cook University**

Key Themes for 2026

- Academic governance in a changing regulatory environment
- The establishment of ATEC and the National Student Ombudsman
- Transnational education governance
- Best practice in Academic Boards and Senates
- Governance benchmarking and sector insights
- Board induction and capability development
- Future directions for Australian higher education
- Harmonisation and sector reform