



CAUL Welcomes the NHMRC revised Open Access policy

Statement by the Council of Australian University Librarians (CAUL)

21 September 2022

CAUL acknowledges the Traditional Owners of Country throughout Australia and that the Council Members are located across all of Australia. We pay our respect to the Elders past, present and emerging, for all First Nations Peoples, wherever they are located.

Yesterday, the NHMRC announced a revised open access policy that represents a major step forward for open access to publicly funded research outputs in Australia.

The policy mandates full and immediate open access to research outputs from all grants funded from this point onwards, and for all existing grants from 2024. The policy provides researchers with options for routes to open access, which includes through immediate open access publication of the version of record under a CC-BY licence, whether through payment of APCs or through Read & Publish or transformative agreements. The policy also notes deposit of author accepted manuscripts in repositories under a CC-BY licence as another means of meeting the requirement.

CAUL welcomes this policy update, which represents a significant advance in making publicly funded research outputs openly available immediately upon publication.

'CAUL continues to negotiate and pursue Open Access agreements with publishers large and small, and we are pleased to see the new NHMRC policy acknowledges publication under these agreements as a route to immediate open access to research outputs,' CAUL Board Member Bob Gerrity said.

The revised policy brings the NHMRC policy into alignment with the Plan S initiative of cOAlition S.

Read more on the [NHMRC website](#).

About CAUL Inc.

The [Council of Australian University Librarians Incorporated \(CAUL\)](#) is the peak leadership organisation for university libraries in Australia and New Zealand. CAUL Members are the University Librarians or equivalent of the 39 institutions that have representation on Universities Australia and the 8 members of the Council of New Zealand University Librarians (CONZUL). CAUL makes a significant contribution to higher education strategy, policy and outcomes through a commitment to a shared purpose: To transform how people experience knowledge – how it can be discovered, used, and shared. CAUL's vision is that society is transformed through the power of research, teaching, and learning. University libraries are essential knowledge and information infrastructures that enable student achievement and research excellence.