

**THE AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL UNIVERSITY**

**RESEARCH AWARDS RULE 2017**

EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

1. Authority for making the instrument: *Vice-Chancellorship Statute 2013*, section 9.5.
2. Purpose and operation of the instrument: The Rule provides a framework in relation to the undertaking of programs of study leading to the award of research awards of the University.
3. Documents incorporated in the instrument by reference: None.
4. Consultation process: The University's current HDR Administration Support Project includes implementation of digitised and automated thesis submission and examination. Central to this new process will be: digitisation of processes including automated electronic workflow; electronic thesis submission; transition away from hard copy, face-to-face submission and posting of theses; automation of all attachments and correspondence; and student self-management and tracking of the thesis examination. To give effect to these service improvements, amendments to the *Research Award Rule 2016* are required. The amendments made to the Rule are limited to removal of the requirement for submission of thesis hard copies. These changes have been endorsed for approval through a new Rule by the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research) and the Academic Board.

Corporate Governance and Risk Office  
11 December 2017