



# NECTAR Annual Report

August 2021 –2022

Network for Early Career Teachers, Academics and Researchers of ANU, NECTAR

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## Executive Summary

In its 10th year of operation, The Australian National University Network for Early Career Teachers, Academics and Researchers, ANU NECTAR, has achieved some unexpected successes delivering to the network's aim to enable early career academics to be successful so that they can lead a better future. The table below summaries the Network success across projects in Advocacy, Engagement, Mentoring and Professional Development. This report was created for NECTAR's Annual General Meeting, 18 August 2022.

NECTAR's unexpected successes in the last 12 months are noteworthy given the context. As a year affected by pandemic, 2021-2022, has been especially challenging for NECTAR members: early and mid-career researchers and teachers of ANU (EMCRs). This has resulted in a reduced capacity of NECTAR across our 41 active volunteers, 2950 members and two support staff. NECTAR has been significantly understaffed for the last three months due to planned and unplanned staff leave. NECTAR's budget for activities has also been tight. Attendance and event numbers have not been as low as expected in 2021 but has proven very low in recent months, benchmarked against similar programs this was anticipated. Nevertheless, NECTAR members have demonstrated continued engagement and appreciation for the opportunities the network creates.

## Advocacy wins

- A team of NECTAR volunteers led by NECTAR Co-Chair Ian Carter, CHM EMCR representatives, Ulrike Schumann and Nicolay Shirokikh. NECTAR was thanked in an in College email for our contribution to securing, co-creating and assigning a \$1.3 million scheme for EMCR development with the College of Health and Medicine Research Committee.
- The NECTAR working group on Authorship, led by Samantha Stanley, contributed to shaping policy on how authorship disputes are managed at ANU and related policies. .

- Led by NECTAR Co-Chair Bin Lu and NECTAR Custodian Faith Gordon, we gained continued representation at the University Research Committee (URC).
- Contributed to the shaping of the new university governance framework for Equity and Wellbeing (includes a report on NECTAR activity and project handover report for the new committee). By NECTAR Working Group on Equity and Diversity.
- We have EMCR representatives observing other university executive meetings and raising awareness of opportunities arising in the NECTAR newsletter.
- Recruited and enabled a team of student and EMCR volunteers to assist at First Nations Portfolio events: First Nations Wealth Forum and Marramarra Murru, which aim to enable First Nations people to gain economic success and to a limited extent help the ANU to become the 'university-of-choice for First Nations' ...EMCRs.
- Following a [recorded interview of NECTAR founders](#), we were invited to present the history of ANU NECTAR at Griffith University EMCR Forum 16 August 2022.
- Invited by ANU executives to co-create a framework of EMCR support and opportunities delivering to the commitment in the strategic plan 'ANU 2025'.
- ANU Vice Chancellor, Professor Brian Schmidt, thanked NECTAR for meeting with him in October 2021, a meeting facilitated by NECTAR Co-Chair Shaam Al Abed, and attended by 97 EMCRS. Professor Schmidt requested to attend the NECTAR Forum again in 2022 with more time to interact with the ECAs (stay tuned for the date and prep your questions.)

#### **Engagement is still high from EMCRs**

- Celebrated the 10th year of NECTAR with an online Forum, with 97 attendees.
- We currently have the highest ever engagement of active volunteers (currently 41, with representation from all Academic Colleges (but only one from CAP and we are keen to hear from you if you want to join)).
- NECTAR newsletter is currently distributed to 4002 email addresses.
- 425 EMCR attendances at 22 NECTAR events over the last 12 months, detailed in Table 1.
  - 21% of attendees gave feedback and 96% of these rated the event they attended 'good' to 'excellent'.
- A small number of social events with thanks to Lillian Smyth and Alice Richardson

#### **Mentoring on target for participation and satisfaction**

- 2022 - 213 participants (101 mentees and 112 mentors) were recruited in the ANU NECTAR Mentoring Program, which achieves our target participation rate in the fifth year that this program has been offered university-wide.
- 2021 – We had 177 participants (77 mentees and 100 mentors),
  - 89% of feedback responders rated the program 'good' to 'excellent', where 56% participated in the end-of-program evaluation.

#### **Professional Development offerings of NECTAR**

- 15 Professional Development (PD) events attended by 206 NECTAR members, details in Table 1, noting that our advocacy events (5) also have professional development value.
- Includes PD events led by NECTAR Co-Chair Hieu Nguyen on Supervision and teaching.
- Includes events led by the following NECTAR volunteer EMCRs: NECTAR Co-Chair Bin Lu, Jo Lane, Matt Thompson, and more brains behind what we do from the [NECTAR Custodians](#)

**Table 1 Event report for NECTAR from NECTAR AGM 2021-NECTAR AGM 2022**

Date	NECTAR Events Program (not inc Mentoring Program)	Attendees	response rate	rated good-excellent
19-Aug	NECTAR AGM 2021	28	21%	100%
26-Aug	Foundations of HDR Supervision Workshop	21	24%	100%
2-Sep	HDR Supervision Troubleshooting Forum	14	29%	100%
14-Sep	Auslan workshop	28	39%	100%
15-Sep	Collaboration across boundaries 2021	25	20%	100%
29-Sep	Statistics methodology support for DECRA Applicants	8	13%	100%
12-Oct	10-year Anniversary NECTAR FORUM	97	1%	
	Part 1 - VC and Dean HDR Q&A			92%
	Part 2 - What can success look like?			92%
	Part 3 - Engaging outside the Academy			82%
13-Oct	Statistics methodology support for DECRA Applicants	9	22%	100%
14-Oct	PostAc - Understand the job market for PostDocs - Inger	19	21%	100%
26-Oct	Influencing people	22	41%	100%
2-Nov	Leading change in universities with Linda Hort	13	54%	100%
3-Nov	Issues report for the VC - what's up?	2		
	<b>2022</b>			
9-Mar	Learning and early-career teaching strategy	40	1%	100%
10-Mar	Research strategy for early-career Researchers and the Australian Government - Chief Scientists department	42	19%	88%
12-May	Win at grants with Stats Methodology support	21	19%	75%
17-May		12	33%	100%
Tuesdays May-June	Programming Community of Practice	5	0%	
21-Jun	R-Ladies Morning Tea	9	0%	
Wednesdays	Walks by Lillian Smyth (data incomplete)	10	0%	
<b>Total</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>425</b>	<b>21%</b>	<b>96%</b>

**What is NEXT? Get involved: Advocacy Work Aspirations for 2022-2023**

Major projects/ NECTAR Working groups (your welcome to join)

- EMCR Issues report to the VC – project evolved 2022
- EMCR Professional Development framework drafted, by November
- NECTAR Constitution/Terms of Reference

Events

- World café brainstorming events on PD needs and blocks to feed the above projects
- EMCR research funding day (NECTAR Forum 2022) with the VC
- Build a disruptive research team events – networking and panel discussions
- Authorship and collaborations to strategically build track record – panel discussion
- Academic enrichment for the Undergrads
- Get your Acknowledgement of country into language coming up and more...want to help make this happen?, [get in touch.](#)