

In 2003, we advanced significantly towards the objectives and operational priorities outlined in The University of Queensland Strategic Plan 2003-2007* (pages 18-21) – the basis for this Annual Report.

Our standing

The University of Queensland was founded in 1910 as the first university in Queensland and the fifth in Australia. Now it is known internationally as a leader among Australia's 39 universities.

We rank in the nation's top few institutions by most performance measures; and this year an Australian Universities Quality Agency (AUQA) audit report (page 12) commended our outstanding leadership and exceptional quality performance. Nationally, we are a founding member of the Group of Eight – a national coalition of leading research-intensive universities. Internationally, we are one of only three Australian members of *Universitas 21*. This select alliance is limited to 25 research-intensive universities dedicated to world-best practice and in November this year, our Vice Chancellor was appointed Chair.

Our mission

Our mission is to create a community dedicated to achieving national and international levels of excellence in teaching, research and scholarship, one that makes significant contributions

to the intellectual, cultural, social and economic life of the State of Queensland and the Australian nation.

Our aims and commitments

We seek to honour our responsibilities both to our own community and to the wider communities with which we interact, and we strive to:

- identify and develop new, appropriate strategic priorities in teaching and research;
- support the Queensland Government's Smart State policies and initiatives;
- develop, manage and diversify our resource base;
- incorporate the new technologies in leading-edge infrastructure; and
- leverage new funding via our Strategic Initiatives Fund.

- increase international and postgraduate student numbers;
- develop new teaching techniques;
- improve student satisfaction;
- improve research productivity;
- achieve leadership in technology transfer;
- increase mutually-beneficial partnerships with outside organisations;
- increase revenue from non-government sources;
- improve information technology infrastructure;
- improve management practices and systems; and
- enhance the physical environments of our campuses.

* In November 2003 our University Senate approved a Strategic Plan for 2004-2008 www.uq.edu.au/about/strategic. Senate also noted revised Faculty and Central Services Operational Plans (which for the first time included specific sections on risk management), a Capital Management Plan and Subsidiary Operational Plans. These support initiatives outlined in the 2004-2008 Strategic Plan. Earlier in the year, Senate approved a Corporate Risk Profile and Management Plan prepared after advice from PricewaterhouseCoopers.

Our operational priorities

Our critical operational priorities, backed by our Strategic Initiatives Fund, are to:



Our 114-hectare St Lucia campus, a magnificent riverfront site just seven kilometres from Brisbane's city centre