Approval of the proposals of the review of the UQ OHS professional services

Background
In late 2016 a review of the UQ occupational health and safety professional services was commenced. The scope of the review included the formal occupational health and safety function across UQ (i.e. OHS services provided across all levels and business units of UQ, including the central Division). The purpose of this review was to examine occupational health and safety professional services across UQ to ensure that UQ benefits from consistent, effective, progressive and responsive services, and to ensure UQ is well positioned to move to its intended future occupational health and safety positioning.

Process
The review broadly consisted of:

- conducting a base-lining exercise to determine the extent, location and activity of the formal, dedicated and multi-functional role occupational health and safety staff resources currently in place at UQ;
- reviewing recent Uniforum data relevant to UQ’s occupational health and safety activity;
- conducting a scope of service process to determine the nature and extent of the occupational health and safety services to be provided across UQ;
- engaging the users/clients of occupational health and safety services at UQ (through interviews and survey) to determine the required nature and extent of these services (bearing in mind UQ’s legal and corporate responsibilities); and
- compiling information on resources and operating models at other universities.

A series of findings from the discovery phase in the form of a set of proposals for the organisation of occupational health and safety services at UQ were compiled.

The proposals underwent preliminary consultation with members of the reference group for the review. Subsequent to this, general consultation occurred in mid-June to mid-July 2017, involving all UQ managers and the UQ occupational health and safety network. The majority of comments were supportive of the proposals in the consultation document.

Outcome
Proposals were grouped into the following areas:

1. Occupational Health and Safety Division;
2. Central, coordinated oversight of the UQ occupational health and safety function;
3. Capability development; and
4. OHS service delivery in Faculties.

The review report and review proposals were forwarded to the Chief Operating Officer for approval, and the proposals were approved last week. The review report and proposals (from page 23 of the report) can be found at the Occupational Health and Safety Division web page at http://www.uq.edu.au/ohs/OHSD/Review/OHS-review-report-Final.pdf

1 Respondents to the general consultation are included at appendix 6 of the final report.
The Occupational Health and Safety Division will now work with relevant personnel and areas of the university to commence the implementation of the proposals.

Please contact me at ohs@uq.edu.au if you have any enquiries regarding the review.