**Higher Education Standards Panel consultation paper:**
**Next steps on improving the transparency of higher education admissions**

**Inclusion of postgraduate courses**

1.  *Do you agree with the proposed two applicant grouping to target admission information to prospective postgraduate students?*
    a.  *Completed higher education study, bachelor degree level or above*
    b.  *Work, study and/or life experience*

The University supports the proposed two applicant grouping for targeted admissions information to prospective postgraduate students. We confirm that we already capture these two groups for domestic postgraduate students in our existing 'Basis of Admission' coding system.

2.  *What are your views on the proposed inclusion of information about the availability and allocation of Commonwealth Supported Places (CSP) in postgraduate courses, which some students have indicated may assist in choosing the best course for their needs?*

The University is agreeable to the proposal to include information about the availability and allocation of CSP in postgraduate courses and agrees that this will be of value for some prospective students. The University already has the processes in place to manage the split of CSP and Domestic fee-paying places, and publishes that on the program page on the corporate site

**Inclusion of information for international students**

3.  *Do you agree with the proposed approach of integrating the minimum required admission information to enable course comparisons for international students without creating a separate applicant grouping?*

As noted in the paper 'In most cases that information already being published would be sufficient to meet the proposed new approach' as admission of international students into programs is subject to the same standards as for domestic students – with the addition of English Language evidence.

The only area where more information is required relates to the conversion table of offshore qualifications to the Australian standard noted in our domestic admission requirements, e.g., conversions of global qualifications to Australian minimum standards:
https://www.usc.edu.au/international/how-to-apply/check-entry-requirements/undergraduate-program-admission-requirements

In the future for UniSC, offshore third-party relationships may need to be considered, for example whereby a student completes a bridging or specialist pathway for entry into a program – this may not be an option for a domestic student and therefore may not be easily comparable.

4.  *Is it appropriate and workable to separate out different cohorts of international students in the student profile tables on the same applicant grouping basis as domestic students (higher education, VET, Recent Secondary, work and life experience, etc.), rather than a single figure for international students as in the current information sets? NOTE: If you are a provider, does your institution have data that would enable this approach?*

The University views this as possible but with some complexity. It is possible for the University to include higher education, recent secondary education (with the inclusion of a reference to Australian

equivalence), VET (or relevant Australian equivalent). It should be noted, however, that there would be few – if any – international students who have been admitted to coursework undergraduate or coursework postgraduate through admission based on different types of educational backgrounds in the category of "other work and life experience". There would be a few exceptions in programs like the MBA. Although the University collects the relevant admissions data, further investigation is required to determine how easily this data can be accessed through the student information system for reporting purposes.

5. *What are your views on the proposed:*
   a. *inclusion of offshore students in enrolment profiles where they are studying and engaging with onshore students on an equal basis*

Although the proposal is supported in principle, the impact on reporting would need to be considered.

   b. *exclusion of purely offshore course offerings, for instance courses offered at an overseas campus, as out of scope for this exercise*

The University agrees with the proposal to exclude purely offshore offerings from the scope.

**Enhancing the reporting of ATARs for places offered to recent secondary students**

6. *Do you see any difficulty with including the ATARs of all recent secondary students offered a place in the ATAR profile table for a course?*

The University provides for early offers places to Year 12 students based on the recommendation from Principals. This assessment is holistic and considers the student's likelihood for success The assessment also considers the applicant's academic performance, as well as their motivation, talents, passions, and abilities to determine if these are a match for success at university. An offer of admission is therefore independent of their Year 12 results. An analysis of the success of this cohort of students indicates that they are performing at the same or higher level in their undergraduate studies as other students admitted based on their ATAR. However, we do not consider it appropriate to including the ATAR of these students in the published profile table for courses since their offer and admission to a course has been based on criteria unrelated to their final ATAR.

**Overall feedback on admissions transparency initiatives**

7. *Are there any other aspects of either the previously agreed common terminology definitions or information set specifications or the implementation of admissions transparency that you wish to provide comment on?*

For consistency with other Department reporting, suggest using the term "Domestic" rather than "Australian" to fully capture all types of domestic students.

We would also welcome further data the Department can provide demonstrating the benefit of providing the proposed additional information to potential applicants.

If you would like to discuss UniSC's views further, I invite you to contact Professor Denise Wood AM, Pro Vice-Chancellor (Students) at PVCStudents@usc.edu.au.