



**UNSW**  
SYDNEY

Australia's  
Global  
University



Gonski Institute for Education

# Strategic Plan

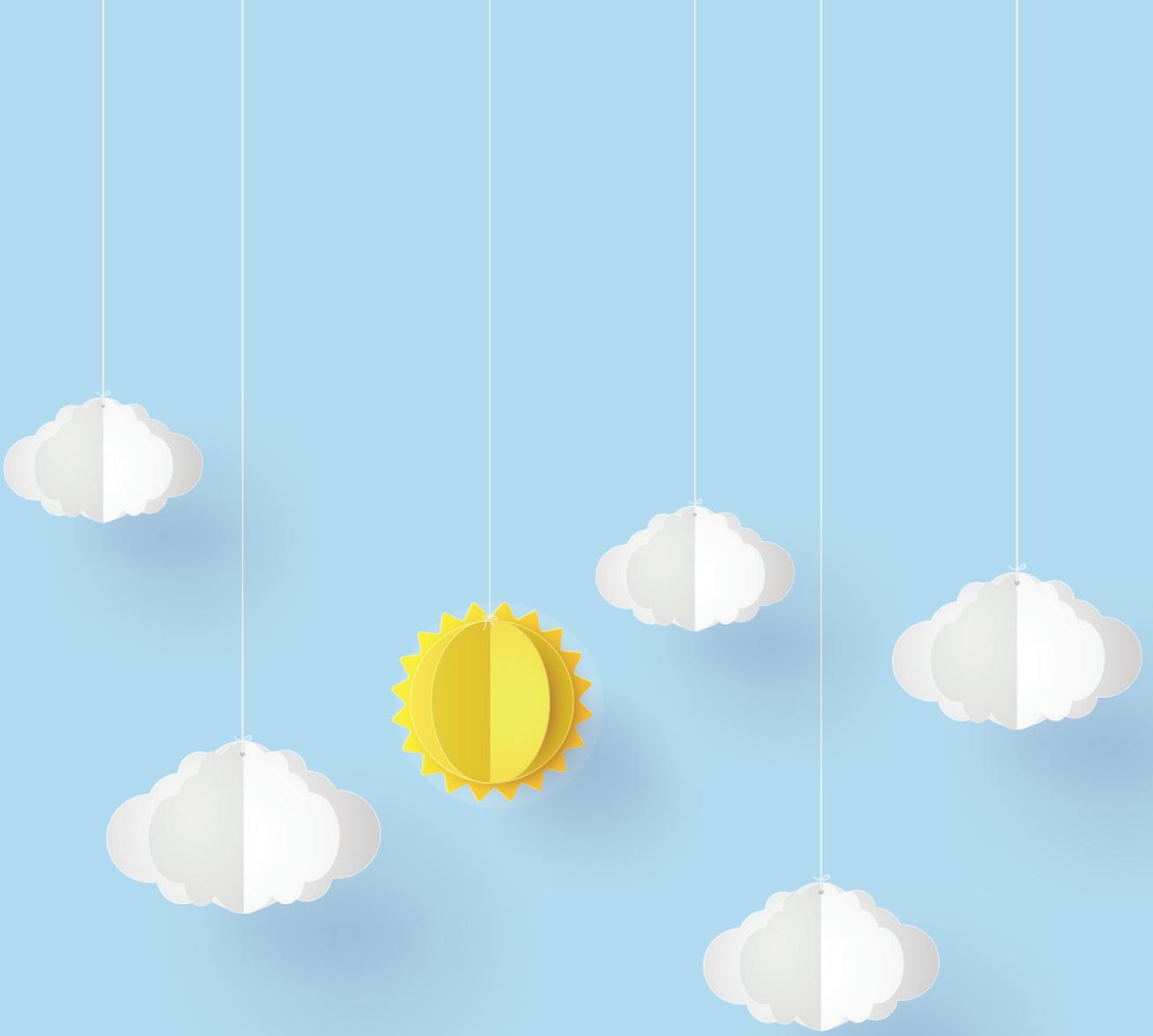


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# Contents

Our vision .....	4
Our values .....	5
Our mission .....	6
Our context .....	7
Our unique capabilities .....	8
Fixing the equity problem .....	9
Our approach .....	9
Long-term outcomes .....	14



# Our Vision

An education system where every child's academic, social and wellbeing outcomes are maximised regardless of differences in wealth, location or power.

The Gonski Institute for Education is a key enabler and a powerful voice for this change.

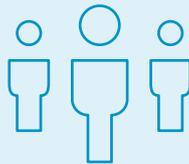


# Our Values



## **Inclusiveness.**

All children are capable and valued.



## **Equity.**

Every child is provided resources and support based on their needs.



## **Excellence.**

A continually improving, high quality education system.



## **Engagement.**

Education is only transformed through harnessing practitioner wisdom.



## **Partnerships.**

We achieve more by working in alliance with others.

# Our Mission



Our mission is to fix  
the equity problem in  
education.

We do this by providing educators, communities, policy makers and governments with the knowledge and tools to transform education through supporting students' unique academic, social, health and wellbeing needs.



# Our Context

Australia's performance in international student achievement tests (PISA/TIMSS) has been dropping since the mid-2000's, with a flat-lining of performance at the upper end and persistent under-performance at the lower end, suggesting that teachers and schools are finding it more difficult to address diverse needs among learners.

The 2011 'Review of Funding for Schooling', commonly referred to as the 'Gonski Report', also identified a significant link between low levels of achievement and educational disadvantage, particularly among students from low socioeconomic, regional, remote and Indigenous backgrounds.

Analysis by the OECD has further confirmed that equity of educational outcomes in Australia are weaker (i.e. the relationship between students' achievement and their economic, social and cultural status is stronger) than they were 15 years ago.

In response to these trends, UNSW has created the Gonski Institute for Education (GIE), an interdisciplinary institute with a mandate to improve Australian educational equity, access and excellence.



# Our Unique Capabilities

## Our people

World leading researchers, strong international networks/ partnerships and deep, long term relationships with government, policy makers and practitioners.

## Our bold approach

Influencing policy and practice by direct engagement with educators, building the best research base, rigorously testing our ideas in schools and empowering decision makers with knowledge and skills.

## Our thought leadership

An ability to bring together education practitioners, academic researchers and policy makers to translate research findings into tools and approaches that are ready for use in schools and across systems.

## Our influence

Well connected and respected advocates with proven records in leading and advocating for reform in education.

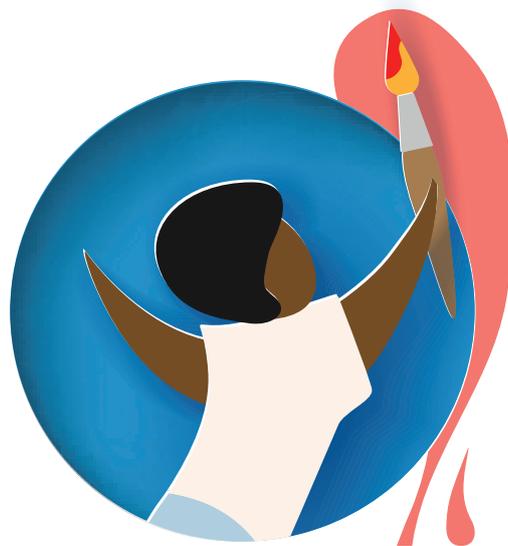
# Fixing the equity problem

Better understanding the systemic causes of educational inequity is key to the Institute achieving our vision.

Prioritising policy change at a system level and developing school leadership will deliver the biggest impact.



# Our Approach



## Understand the problem

Build networks and partnerships with the education profession, communities and policy makers to understand the problems and what research is needed.

## Research with direct impact

Use our inter-disciplinary research capability to test possible solutions and create new knowledge that can achieve sustainable impact on policy and practice.

## Advocate for change

Using our research and knowledge advocate for reform to improve outcomes for students.

## Empower decision makers

Share our knowledge through professional learning, communication and policy recommendations.

## Understand the problem

We leverage our strong relationships with the teaching profession, principals, school system leaders and governments by asking them directly what they need from us and what their knowledge gaps are in order to achieve equity in education.

We seek a deeper understanding of existing problems by bringing together academics, leading educators with practical knowledge of what is going on in schools, cross-disciplinary thinkers with experience in implementation as well as policy makers.

## Research with direct impact

To achieve results for students we use our national and international networks and an interdisciplinary approach to bring together the right research expertise with the right practical experience.

We aim to test research theories in real-world, diverse, educational contexts in order to inform our efforts and to scale for impact.

Working with leading global scholars and change makers will enrich our problem-solving capacity and processes.

## Empower decision makers

From our research and trials we transfer new understandings and ideas directly to educators, schools, systems and governments using their preferred channels.

We provide school leaders and system leaders with policy recommendations and publications resulting from our work to help inform their work.

We provide professional learning, postgraduate education, workshops, public lectures and short courses to engage with the profession.

## Advocate for change

Taking our evidence-base we engage in campaigns and advocacy to secure meaningful change in policy and practice.

Harnessing methods and practices from outside the education sector, knowing evidence alone is not usually enough to drive change, we use our influence and that of our partners and supporters to get change that will make a difference for students.

# Long-term outcomes

- **New knowledge**

Practical research and advice is available to schools and school systems to enhance equity and measurably improve gains in student learning and wellbeing.

- **Empowerment**

Improved knowledge and capability of policy makers and school leaders.

- **Change**

Evidence-based reforms are adopted and successfully implemented.



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