

La Trobe University Council Report of Outcome – 26 October 2026

La Trobe's founding mission was, and remains, to serve the community of Victoria for the purposes of higher education, for the education, economic, social and cultural benefit of Victorians and for wider Australian and international communities.

La Trobe University Council is the formally constituted governing body of the University. It oversees and is accountable for the University's operations, including ensuring that the institution meets and continues to meet the requirements of the Higher Education Standards Framework and the [La Trobe University Act 2009](#).

The Council met on Monday 26 October 2026 at the City Campus, Level 3, 360 Collins Street.

Financial sustainability

Council received an update on the University's financial sustainability measures, including expenditure controls, workforce measures and negotiations for a new Enterprise Agreement. Members noted the continuing work to manage costs while supporting the University's longer-term financial position.

Domestic Growth

Council noted that La Trobe is leading Victorian growth in commencing domestic students, ranked first in Victoria in 2026 for both percentage growth and absolute increase in student numbers, and third nationally for headcount increase in the preliminary comparison.

China Acceleration Program

Council discussed the opportunity to accelerate transnational education growth in China in response to current international recruitment constraints and changes in China's regulatory settings. Members considered the proposed focus on joint programs and institutes, articulation pathways and offshore delivery in Hong Kong, together with the associated financial, foreign interference and reputational risks. Council endorsed in principle the strategic direction of the China Acceleration Program, noting the importance of appropriate risk management and resourcing.

Cyber security and incident preparedness

Council considered progress under the University's Cyber Security Strategy and the proposed refreshed Strategy 2.0. Members noted improvements in the University's ability to identify and contain cyber-attacks, while recognising that cyber risk remains an area requiring continued attention. Council also discussed lessons from a recent cyber tabletop exercise, including the need to clarify delegations and communication arrangements.

Student success and safer community

Council noted that student success reached its highest overall rate in five years in 2025 and that retention has improved. Success increased across equity cohorts, while members noted ongoing challenges in completion and the need to continue addressing differences in outcomes. Council also considered the 2025 Safer Community and Student Conduct Report, noting increased demand and case complexity, opportunities identified through an independent review, and continued growth in students seeking support.

Student Services and Amenities Fee

Council approved the 2027 Student Services and Amenities Fee Consultation Framework.

University Code of Conduct

Council approved the revised University Code of Conduct. The revisions clarify expected standards of conduct, including in relation to out-of-work conduct, social media use and academic freedom of expression.

City Integrated Transport Strategy

Council approved the La Trobe University City Integrated Transport Strategy. Members noted that further work on the strategy will consider the effects of artificial intelligence and autonomous vehicles on travel, as well as the changing reasons students need or want to attend campus.

ASIO sector threat briefing

Council received a briefing from the Australian Security Intelligence Organisation on the changing threat environment for the higher education sector. Members discussed the effects of social cohesion challenges, foreign interference and cyber security threats, and the importance of due diligence, proportionate risk assessment, protective safeguards and continued cooperation with relevant authorities.

Other matters

Members noted progress on the University's response to the National Higher Education Code to Prevent and Respond to Gender-based Violence and the ongoing work to strengthen student success, retention and completion.

Council members also discussed the recent opening of the new BioNTech facility at Bundoora campus, noting the strength of the partnership between BioNTech, The University and the State Government and the significant contribution the facility can make to global health.

Council also considered reports and updates from the Academic Board and Council committees, including the University's health and safety performance, financial management, estates planning and active litigation.

Council expressed its shock at the reported attack on Dr Helen Haines MP and conveyed its support to Dr Haines, her family and staff. Council condemned violence and intimidation against elected representatives and expressed concern about escalating threats and gendered abuse directed at women in public life.

Disclaimer

This report communicates key outcomes from the Council meeting and is not the official record of the meeting. It does not cover all matters discussed or the full detail of decisions and discussions.

Further information

Further information regarding La Trobe University Council can be found here:

www.latrobe.edu.au/council.