



## Principles of science policy advice

### Background

The Australian Academy of Science comprises 550 Fellows whose common link is their exceptional scientific achievement. Through the Fellowship, the Academy has unparalleled access to scientific expertise and to the Australian science community. The Academy is able to use this knowledge base to provide advice on policy-related matters.

The Academy's advice is in two main categories:

1. **Science for policy:** the scientific knowledge and expertise that can assist in developing and implementation of public policy across a broad range of issues. Advice of this nature is normally sought by reference to the Academy.
2. **Policy for science:** advice aimed at ensuring that Australian scientists have the means necessary to deliver maximum benefit to the nation. This advice is usually developed by the Academy to influence the rules, regulations, programs and international commitments that affect how scientists work.

The Academy Council or its Executive Committee (EXCOM) will determine priorities for the development of policy advice with input from the Advisory Committee for Policy Matters (ACPM).

### Principles for policy advice

All advice provided by the Academy will be dispassionate, disinterested apolitical and founded in expertise, according to the following standards:

1. **Excellence.** The Academy will draw on the expertise of its distinguished Fellowship, and on other relevant experts.
2. **Quality.** All advice is subject to internal and external review, in part to ensure content is appropriate and in part to ensure any advice is compliant with Academy policies and principles.
3. **Independence.** The Academy is independent. Its advice is driven by evidence and will not be influenced by political interference in its drafting or its conclusions.
4. **Transparency.** A normal condition of Academy advice is that it is made public. It will be written to be accessible to a non-specialist audience.

### Approach to developing policy advice

Academy advice is developed through working groups of Fellows and others, chosen for the relevance of their expertise to the nature of the advice being developed. Members of these working groups will include relevant sector stakeholders drawn from academia, education, industry, government and community sectors.

The Academy's [code of conduct](#) applies in all dealings of Academy working groups.

### Science for policy

External bodies seeking the Academy's advice on policy should contact the Academy Chief Executive, for consideration by Council.

### Policy for Science

Fellows can draw notice to matters that need attention. Such matters should be provided to the Policy Secretary (Sec D), Chair of ACPM. The ACPM will provide advice to Council, who will determine whether further development is warranted.

### Funding

The Academy seeks to fund its policy operations on a capability basis rather than a project-by-project basis. Wherever possible funding for policy advice is drawn from the Academy's endowment accounts, as a core business of the Academy. Where funding is accepted to cover the Academy's overheads in providing policy advice, it will be on the condition that the Academy's principles of Excellence, Independence and Transparency are respected, with these principles enshrined in a funding agreement. The Academy's usual expectation is that such advice will be made public.