

Australian National University

College of Asia and the Pacific

RegNet



School of Regulation and Global Governance

Strategic Plan

2016-2020

WHO WE ARE

RegNet undertakes interdisciplinary research and education in governance and regulation associated with major social and environmental issues. Our work is based on principles of social justice, sustainability and human wellbeing. We test and develop theory; provide rigorous qualitative and quantitative empirical evidence on important issues, and proactively engage in the public and policy debates in Australia, the Asia Pacific region and internationally.

We have earned an international reputation as a dynamic community of scholars from different disciplines leading research in regulation and governance locally, nationally and globally. We take a comprehensive approach to what we mean by regulation and governance: regulation is about influencing the course of events and governance entails the various techniques of influence. We investigate different tools that may be used to shape events and study the different actors and institutions who are involved in making things happen as well as the responses of those subject to regulation and governance.

RegNet's harnesses deep disciplinary expertise alongside a world renowned approach to interdisciplinarity – drawing critically upon theory and methodologies from a range of fields including anthropology, criminology, economics, human geography, international relations, law, philosophy, political science, psychology, public administration, public health, and sociology.

We also partner with natural and social scientists and tackle complex social and environmental problems using innovative forms of knowledge translation in collaboration with policy makers, practitioners and community groups internationally and within Australia.

RegNet staff and students work across Asia Pacific with current projects in Afghanistan, Australia, Bangladesh, Cambodia, China, Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste, Fiji, India, Indonesia, Japan, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Republic of Korea, and Vanuatu. We also have projects and partners in Africa, Europe, and North and South America.

RegNet's research focus is currently organised around five intersecting thematic Clusters (see Figure A): Climate, Energy & the Environment; Human Rights; Law & Justice; Society, Safety & Health; Trade, Investment & Intellectual Property. These clusters are organic and will shift over time in response to key social and environmental challenges and interests.

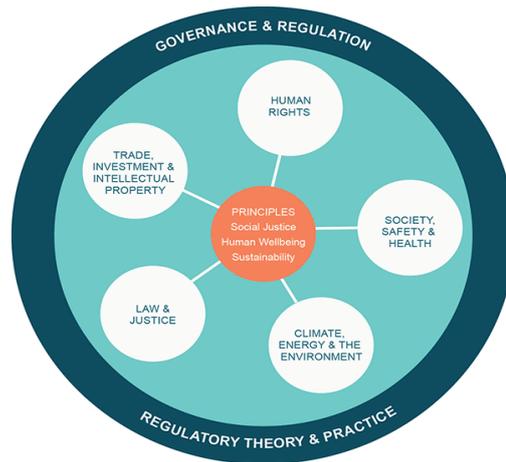


Figure A

VISION

To build and maintain a school of regulation and governance that cultivates and harnesses our collective capacity to address the major social and environmental challenges of the 21st century. This requires focussed, synthesising, creative and respectful minds.

AIMS

We aim to undertake the highest quality interdisciplinary research and education in a critical and reflexive manner, and to strengthen and expand our model of working based on networks of networks within the academy and beyond.

PILLARS

RegNet's vision is pursued through four pillars: **Research; Education; Engagement and People.**

Research: Undertake research at the highest international standards on regulation and governance. We develop theory, empirical understanding, evidence-based policy and best practice, and our work is based on principles of social justice, sustainability and human well-being.

Education: Develop the next generation of interdisciplinarily trained researchers and problem solvers in academia, public service and non-governmental organisations using student-centred approaches and innovative research training.

Engagement: Enable RegNet's research to inform public debate, and policy development and implementation through thoughtful dissemination and engagement with key stakeholders including government and non-government representatives, philanthropic bodies and alumni.

People: Ensure a workplace based on principles of equity and fairness; creativity and innovation; and continuous collective improvement.

OVERVIEW OF PILLAR DIRECTION AND STRATEGY

RESEARCH:

Direction	Strategy
1. <i>Maintain and consolidate RegNet's current research excellence</i>	Enable ongoing research training opportunities
	Increased capacity within RegNet to translate theoretically oriented research knowledge into policy relevant formats
	Establish a mentoring program from senior to more junior academic staff
	Organise a series of discussions around interdisciplinary research and different methodologies
2. <i>Increase category 1 applications and successful outcomes</i>	Improve RegNet staff and PhD students understanding of the grant system
	Grant development support: formalise internal grant peer review, ensuring that it happens on a timely basis
3. <i>Increase category 2-4 grant applications and successful outcomes</i>	Increase government networks
	Increase research collaborations with government, industry and civil society
	Proactively explore category 2-4 funding options
4. <i>Increase the number of quality publications in top journals/publishers</i>	Publication strategy based on quality
	Develop a culture of internal draft swapping and mentoring/peer review relationships
	Establish regular 'work in progress' seminars for all researchers (but with priority to ECRs and PhDs), allowing ideas/problems to be aired
5. <i>Identify research areas of importance and required expertise for future research</i>	Collective identification of emerging vital regulatory and governance issues
	Proactively making appointments/seeking visitors/development of strategic partnerships in those areas
	Masterclasses with visitors to facilitate cross-pollination of ideas
	Individual researchers encouraged to consider how their research trajectories could develop so as to address vital regulatory and governance issues
6. <i>Develop pan-RegNet projects</i>	Choose broad themes and encourage participation across RegNet in developing a series of workshops and specified outputs
7. <i>Create learning relationships internally, with other world-class interdisciplinary institutions and other parts of the ANU</i>	Identify key institutions and people with whom we wish to establish relationships
	Use visitor program strategically to create key relationships
	Develop MoUs and formalised partnerships with relevant academic/non-academic institutions

EDUCATION:

Direction	Strategy
1. <i>Maintain and enhance RegNet's student-centred approach to education</i>	Encourage participation in ANU-sponsored teaching/supervisory training workshops, HEA fellowship scheme and RegNet supervisory mentorship
	Support supervisory development, particularly among inexperienced academic staff
	Begin discussions about supervisory panel composition during the recruitment and admissions process
	Articulate and manage HDR supervisory expectations for students and staff
	Ensure early identification of and support for students who may face obstacles in HDR programs
2. <i>Ensure RegNet's interdisciplinary HDR curriculum is recognised as a world class program that cultivates autonomous and collaborative researchers</i>	Incorporate a clear focus on the benefits, challenges and trade-offs of disciplinary, interdisciplinary, and multidisciplinary research
	Enhance student professional development and career planning, with support from supervisors
	Enhance student mobility for fieldwork, research training and industry engagement opportunities
	Improve RegNet's education performance in coursework delivery, as measured by solicited student feedback, SELT/SELS scores, exit surveys and supervisors' assessments
	Design milestone completion guidelines for all HDR students
3. <i>Maintain HDR student applicant numbers, and increase the overall quality of the candidate pool</i>	Improve advertising of HDR programs to prospective domestic and international students
	Increase the visibility of RegNet's HDR programs through professional and scholarly networks and outreach
	Open RegNet HDR activities to high-achieving honours students with the aim of building long-term relationships
	Enhance alumni networks to support HDR student recruitment
4. <i>Maintain high rates of HDR completion, and ensure 100% compliance with ANU Research Award Rules by 2020</i>	Maintain high levels of in-house support for HDR students
	Identify reasons for delayed completion and strategies for remedying them
	Offer an MPhil option for PhD students who are unable to complete
5. <i>Build and diversify education portfolio to include modes of delivery targeting researchers, regulators, policy makers and other relevant practitioners</i>	Develop the MPhil as a stand-alone research training program
	Encourage academic staff to explore and deliver targeted educational seminars/workshops, leveraging existing networks
	Map the costs and benefits of short course options, analysing existing and new markets alongside university requirements and overall administration
	Obtain the necessary level of administrative support to ensure the effective organisation and delivery of new education offerings
6. <i>Build capacity to support HDR topics in future directions of regulation and governance</i>	Leverage research initiatives to cultivate a clear sense of project areas that RegNet can support
	Extend invitations to HDR and high-achieving Honours students to attend RegNet research initiatives
	Build capacity through collaboration with other units

ENGAGEMENT:

Direction	Strategy
1. <i>Develop relationships that promote understanding and collaboration with policymakers, practitioners and the broader public</i>	Engage in high level discussions with key stakeholders (politicians; policymakers; regulators; peak NGOs/INGOs)
	Hold audience-appropriate engagement sessions that highlight RegNet's work and builds collaboration with key stakeholders (e.g. Intersections Lecture series; Policy Grand Challenge Symposium)
	Establish system to monitor engagement
2. <i>Build capacity in effective knowledge translation</i>	Increase capacity in research oriented towards knowledge translation
	Create a community of practice for research communication and engagement
	Establish a culture of skill sharing and cross training
3. <i>Develop and consolidate networks</i>	Reconnect with alumni networks
	Develop strategic academic partnerships worldwide
	Develop comprehensive internal and external network management strategy
	Coordination of communication materials sent out via external network to avoid over contact
4. <i>Create engaging and multi-accessible research communication materials demonstrating RegNet's research and its impact</i>	Develop and showcase impact case studies
	Establish novel ways to promote research to a broad audience (animated videos, social media)

PEOPLE:

Direction	Strategy
1. <i>Attract, retain and support top class staff</i>	Utilise RegNet's scholarly and collegial reputation and networks to identify potential personnel of the future
	Create career pathways through RegNet, cognisant of the sector funding model
	Provide opportunity for professional development
	Establish mechanism to develop, capture and store RegNet corporate knowledge, policies and standard practice
2. <i>Develop workforce and succession plans to ensure RegNet's personnel profile supports the research, education and engagement agendas</i>	Identify the workforce profile required to support RegNet's research, education and engagement and undertake comparison exercise against current profile to inform future recruitment/retention plans
	Prepare succession plans for senior positions
	Identify opportunities for indigenous and minority representation in all cohorts
	Gear professional team processes to be supportive of and responsive to the School's pillars
3. <i>Engage personnel in RegNet's research, education and engagement</i>	Develop strategies to engage RegNet visitors in research, education and engagement programs
	Provide support for staff to engage with research, education and engagement, gain experience and progress their career
4. <i>Build a vibrant atmosphere harnessing RegNet's collegial and inclusive environment</i>	Develop mechanism for personnel to shape and contribute to the School's physical environment
	Host informal events for personnel to meet, engage and build collegial internal networks