



16 April 2021

CAUL and AOASG welcome the NHMRC's consultation on the [proposed revisions](#) to its Open Access Policy.

As the consultation documents note, "The purpose of the 2021 update to the Policy is to strengthen the requirements for open access publications by requiring:

1. publications and publication metadata to be made openly accessible immediately upon publication without any embargo period
2. authors to retain rights to publications through open licensing of Author Accepted Manuscripts or Version of Record."

The proposed revisions come at a timely moment – just over a year after the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, which showed the importance of immediate open access to research publications in confronting a global emergency.

We encourage all interested parties to provide a submission to the consultation. Submissions are due by 5.00pm (AEST), Wednesday 5 May 2021

About Australasian Open Access Strategy Group (AOASG)

The Australasian Open Access Strategy Group (AOASG) is supported by twenty universities in Australia and eight in New Zealand; Creative Commons Australia and Tohatoha, New Zealand are affiliate members. AOASG works to make Australasian research Open and FAIR (Findable, Accessible, Interoperable and Reusable) and to promote innovation in all areas of scholarly communications.

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About Council of Australian University Librarians (CAUL)

CAUL is the peak leadership organisation for university libraries in Australia. CAUL members are the University Librarians or equivalent of the 39 institutions that have representation on Universities Australia and the 8 members of the Council of New Zealand University Librarians (CONZUL). CAUL makes a significant contribution to higher education strategy, policy and outcomes through a commitment to a shared purpose: To transform how people experience knowledge – how it can be discovered, used and shared.

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