

# Policy/project nexus: addressing an old problem in a new way

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## **Local context**









# Why focus on policy?



- Inconsistencies
- Inefficiencies
- Not current
- Protracted change processes



# **Opportunity**



# Commonwealth Structural Adjustment Fund

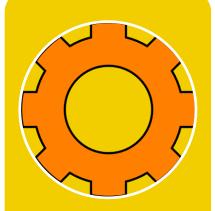


## Role of policy









Academic quality standards



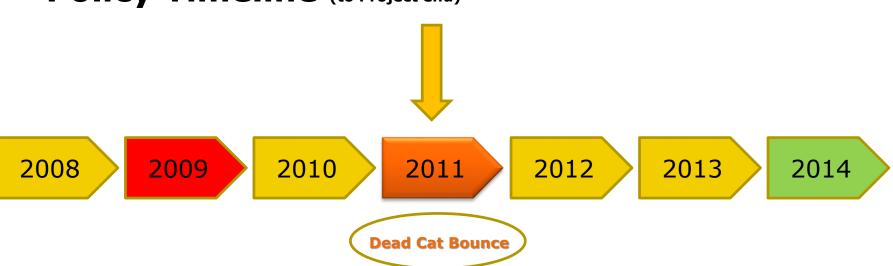
**Management** standards

**Quality assurance | Risk mitigation Compliance | Continuous improvement** 

# Why then?



### Policy Timeline (to Project end)



## How?



### **Policy Refresh Project**

### **Project aim:**

to establish a flexible and sustainable framework for the management of policy

## What?



### **Project objectives**

- 1. Establish the guiding principles (framework)
- 2. Rework the technical infrastructure
- 3. Deploy the framework



# Policy & Procedure Framework

# Policies (Principles)

Procedures (Processes)

Complex

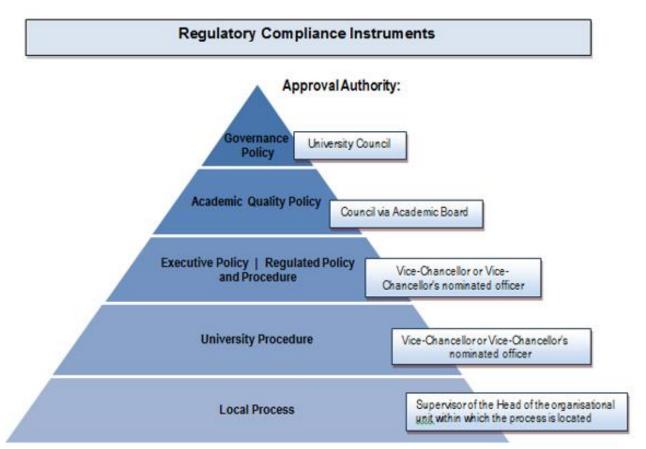
Organisationwide

Matrix-style

High levels of accountability

# Framework approval hierarchy





Source: USQ, 2015, Policy and Procedure Framework



# Technical Infrastructure

Content management system

Publishing system

Policy and Procedure Library

Records Manager Approval date audit

In-house development

University supported

Definitions Dictionary Policy/ procedure/ schedules

Resources



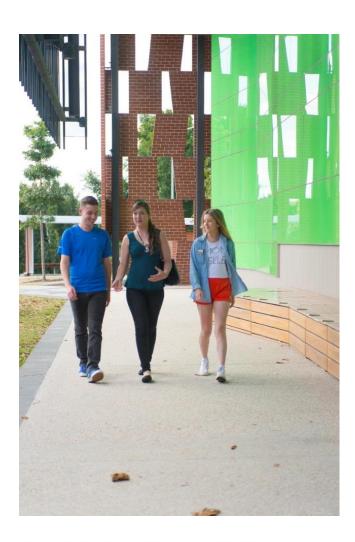




## Resources

- Flowcharts
- Manuals
- Checklists
- Templates
- Deployment Plan





# Studentfacing policies

Tranche 1

Tranche 2



# Definitions Dictionary

- Legal basis
- Proof of concept
- Options
- Baseline
- Content & system integration

# **Policy and Procedure Library**



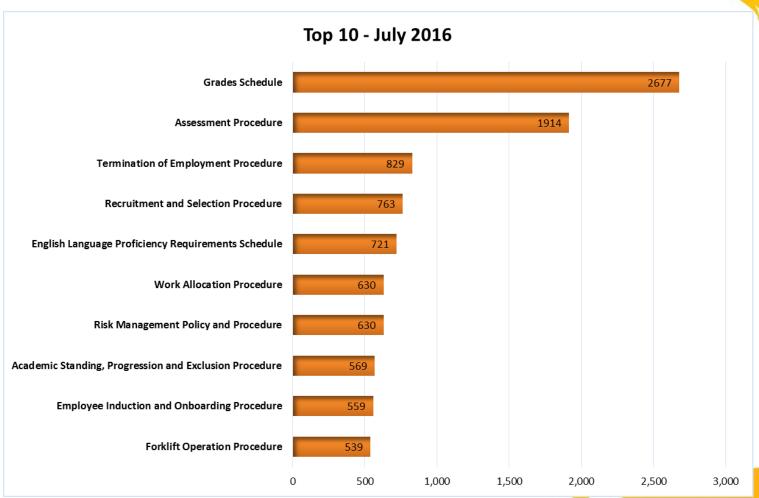
- Live
- Accessible
- Mobile device friendly
- Well used





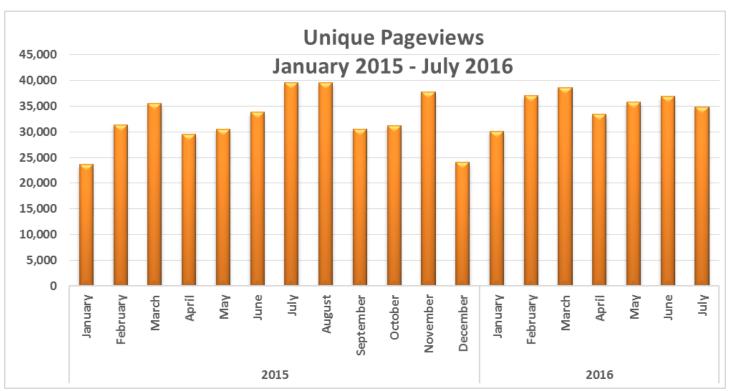
# **Policy Library use**





# **Policy Library access**





# **Challenges**



- Organisational restructure
- System failure
- Contract variation
- Unclear accountability
- Complexity



## The effect



#### 2 dimensions

- Project
- Business as usual

#### 4 streams

- Governance & structure
- Management
- Communication & education
- Resourcing/budget/staffing

### Critical success factors





Environmental scanning



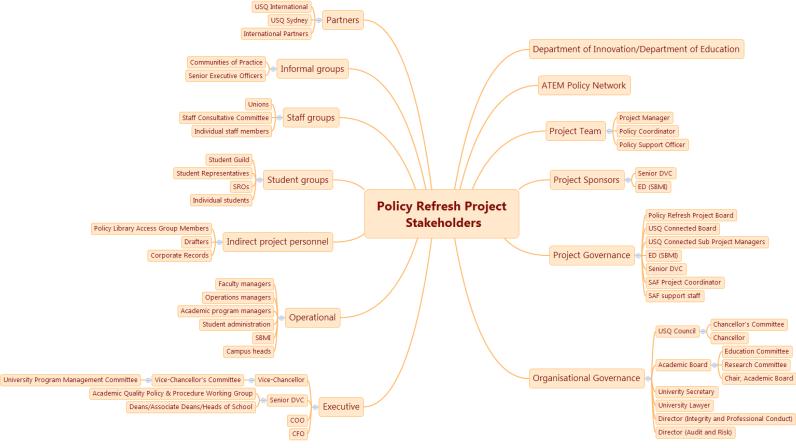
Sponsor and senior management engagement



Stakeholder identification and engagement

# Stakeholder management





## **Critical success factors**





Effective team structures



The right people

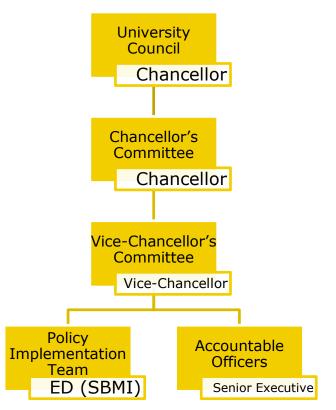


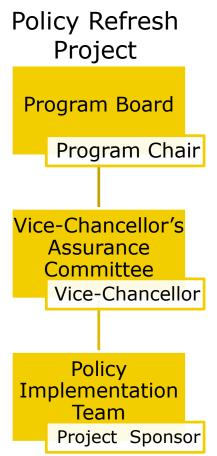
Governance structures

## **Governance structures**



Policy and Procedure Framework (BAU)





### Critical success factors





Performance indicators



**Evaluation** 



Project management approach

# Project management approach



Project initiation



Objective & KPI identification



Milestone identification & adjustment



Monitor / adjust



Manage delivery / collect data



Plan / budget / resource



Objective & KPI delivery



**Evaluation** 



Embedded outcomes = project success

## Success!







# **Opportunities**

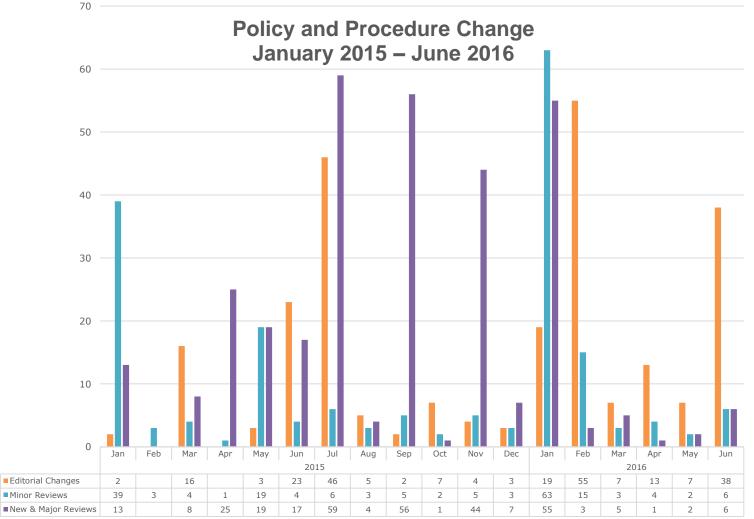


Policy enables change

Opportunities & lessons

# **Change enabler**





## **Opportunities**



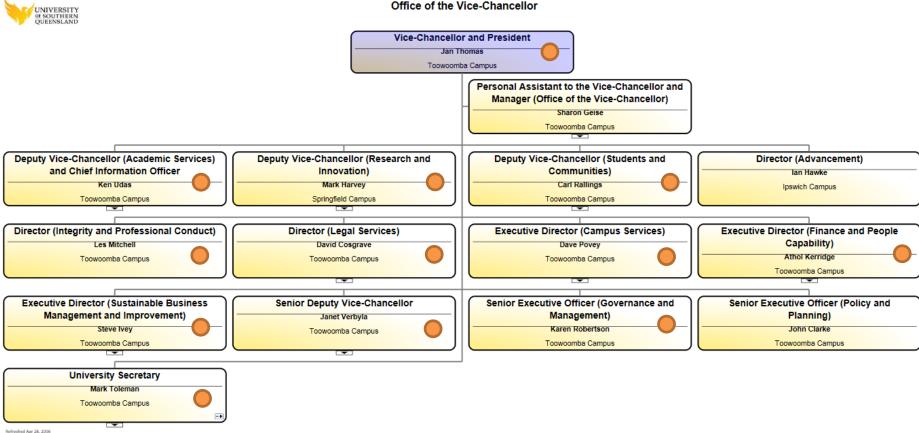
Policy enables change

Policy generates cross-collaboration

Opportunities & lessons

## **Cross-collaboration**





# **Opportunities and lessons**



Policy enables change

Policy generates cross-collaboration

Opportunities & lessons

Robust structured approach required

# Robust structured approach





## **Opportunities and lessons**



Policy enables change

Policy generates cross-collaboration

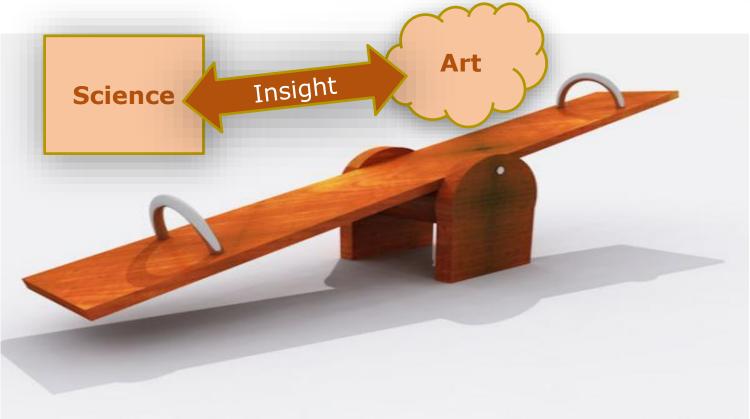
Opportunities & lessons

Robust structured approach required

Effective project management underpins success

## **Project management**





## Project benefits realised



- ✓ Engaged accountable officers
- ✓ Cross-organisational collaboration
- ✓ Enhanced governance and management reporting capability
- ✓ Modern, compliant, robust system
- ✓ Definitions Dictionary baseline
- ✓ Compliance integration
- ✓ Risk mitigation



## **Business as usual benefits realised**



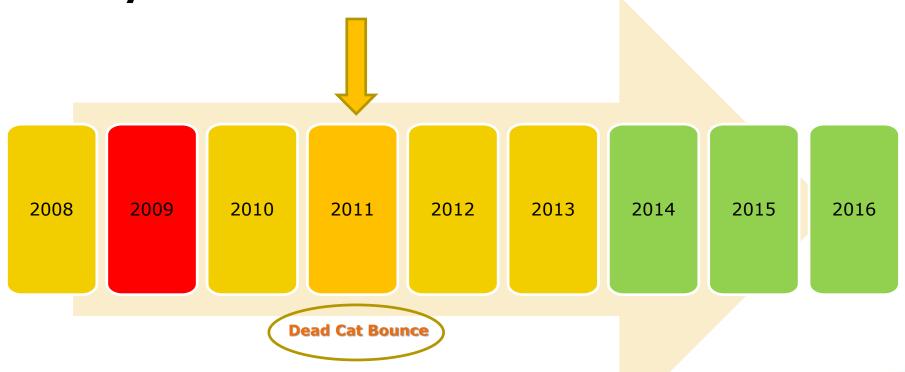
- ✓ Embedded policy development and review
- ✓ Business process improvement
- ✓ Policy and procedure change efficiencies
- ✓ Reduced complaints
- ✓ Reduced audit issues and risk profile
- ✓ Improved staff survey results
- ✓ Improved student experience



#### **Current state**



#### **Policy Timeline at June 2016**



Author: Mr Steve Ivey, Executive Director (Sustainable Business Management and Improvement) – modified and used with permission

#### The future



- Further develop organisational change capability
  - Embed
  - Integrate
  - Improve processes
- Enhance evaluation capability
  - Use data wisely
  - Get creative





# Discussion – policy as a change driver



- Is policy used as a change driver in your institution?
- How is it integrated into the business?
- Does it drive business process improvement?
- How could policy development capability be enhanced at your institution?

## Discussion – policy as an evaluative tool



- Is policy evaluation actively undertaken at your institution?
- Is it embedded in practice how?
- What data informs policy evaluation?
- What does policy evaluation inform?

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USQ Policy Library www.policy.usq.edu.au

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