



# Research Stewardship – A New Concept to Keep Up with the Times

Dr Allison (Alli) Jackson  
Executive Manager, Research Stewardship

Dr Fiona MacIver  
Research Stewardship Adviser

Natanya Clarke-Hunt  
Manager, Research integrity and Governance

Dr Tania Bezzobs  
Director, Research Office

University of Technology Sydney, Australia

# UTS: Who we are



We're  
Australia's  
**leading**  
university of  
technology



**Established**  
in **1988**



Our focus is on  
how  
our **research**  
**translates in**  
**the real world**  
for the  
greatest **impact**



**Partnerships**  
and  
**collaboration**  
are part of our  
DNA



**Research income**  
**increased 50%**  
since 2018 =  
**substantial**  
**growth in activity**

# Australia's changing research ecosystem



- *Australian Code for the Responsible Conduct of Research* and associated Statements/Guidelines
- Two independent national reviews recommended actions that ‘improve the external scrutiny of research integrity’
- 2 / 42 DORA institutional signatories
- Revised human ethics statement and animal research legislation
- Large international university staff and student base
- Heightened geopolitical tensions leading to new compliance and due diligence requirements

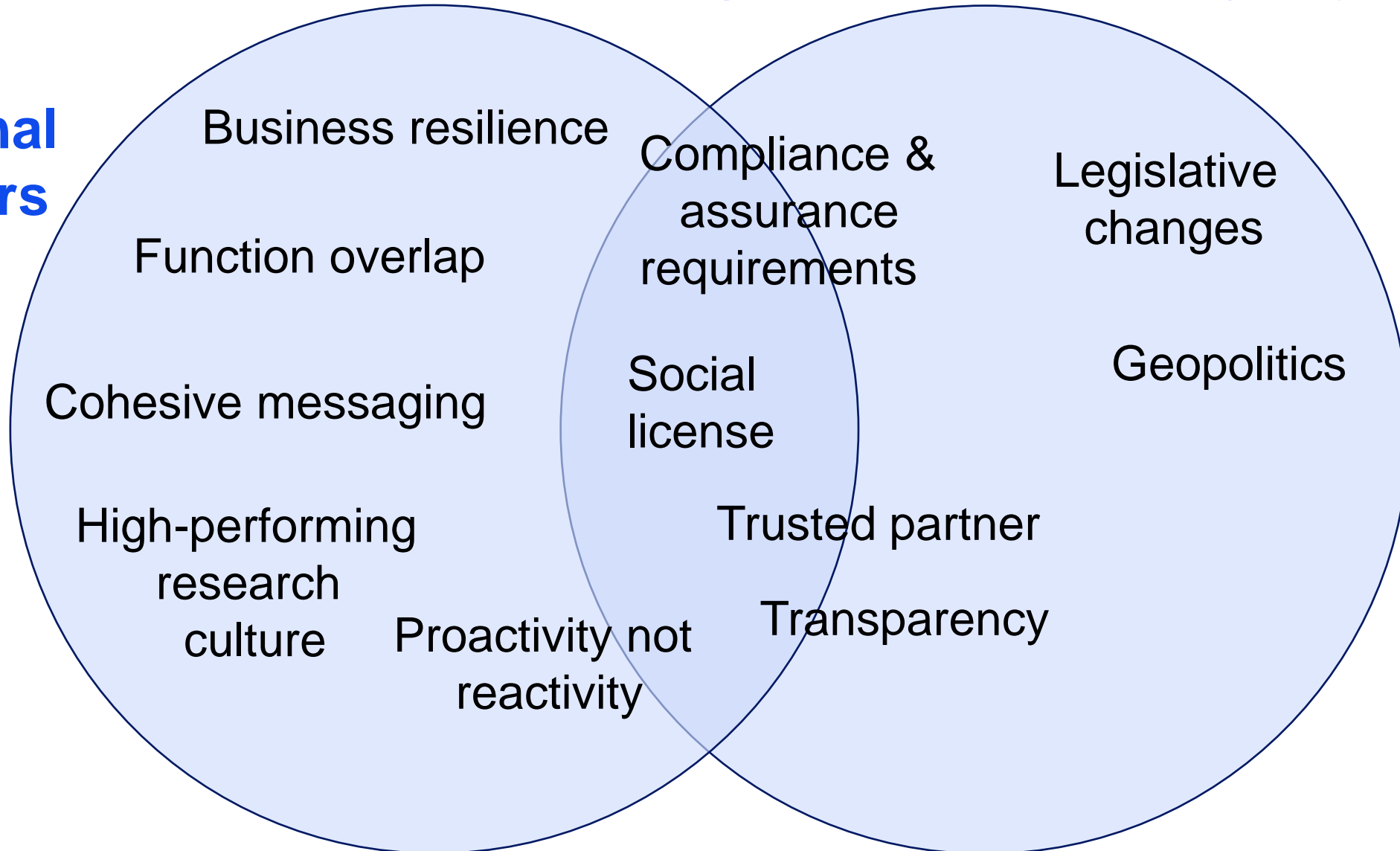


**Research stewardship is the  
responsibility to conduct &  
manage research  
honestly, ethically, &  
conscientiously**

# Why was the Research Stewardship Team established (now)?



**Internal Drivers**



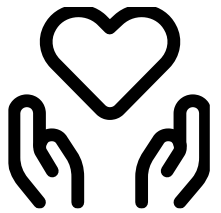
**External Drivers**



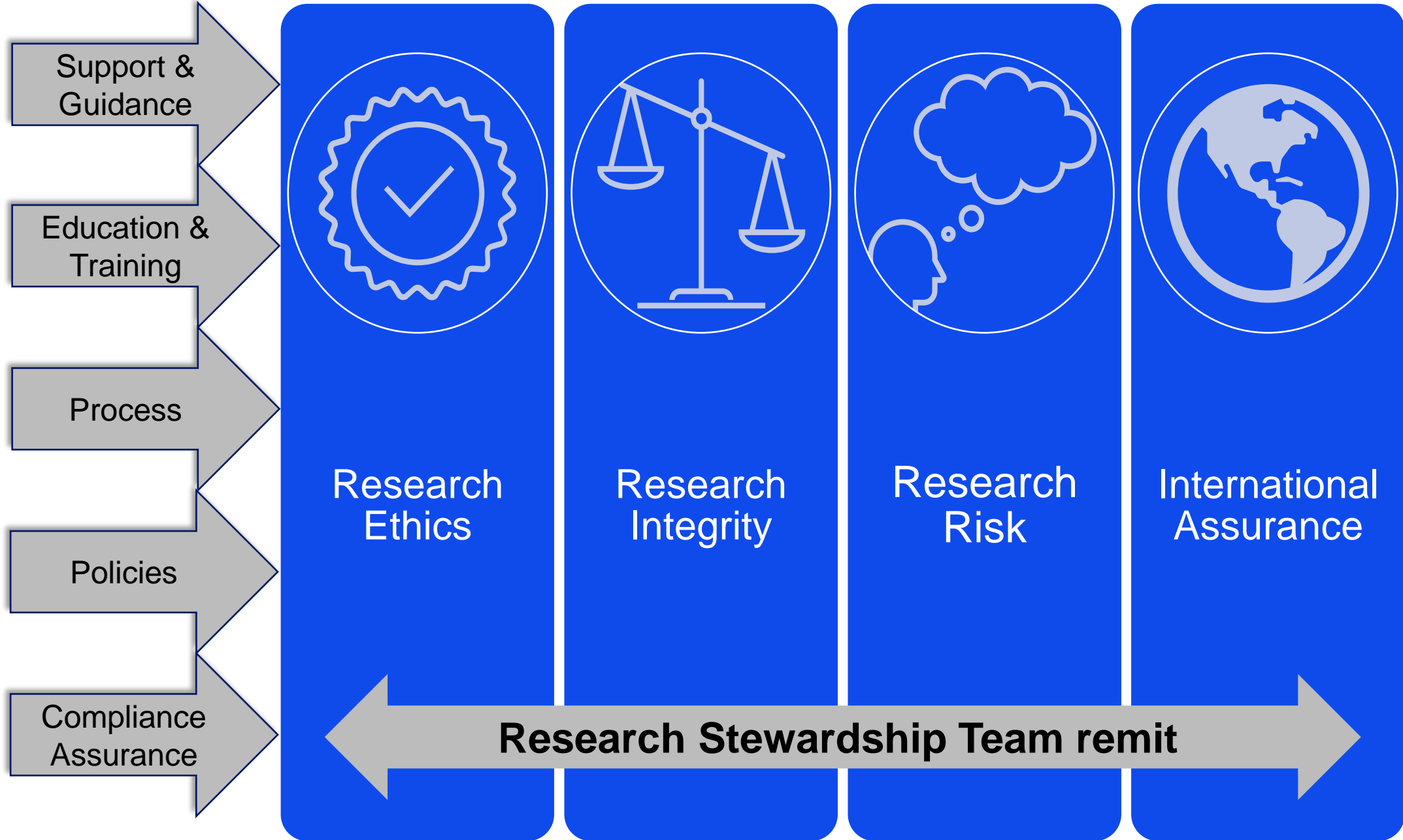
# Research Stewardship Team in the UTS Research Office



*Our mission is to spearhead a culture of responsible research stewardship at UTS, navigating the evolving landscape of academic inquiry with integrity, transparency, and foresight.*



*By fostering collaboration, clarity, and continuous improvement, we aim to empower our research community to thrive while ensuring compliance, ethical conduct, and societal impact.*





**18 months on.....**

**time to reflect**



# Benefits (we are starting to see)



## Strategic

Uplifting the university in its attitude to risk

Transparency

Better decision-making

Providing Assurance

## Operational

Streamlining processes  
(ethics, due diligence)

Targeting high-risk areas

Ensuring compliance

Improved training

## Cultural

Enacting culture change and greater awareness across the university

Having the conversation about responsible research practices

# Challenges



- New terminology
- Shaping the message to be coherent and appropriate
- Standardising processes
- Targeted vs general support
- The more we communicate – the more we learn and need to adapt to increasing complexity
- Enacting culture change – moving beyond compliance



## What is working....

- Evolving how we talk about risk
- Using data to support conversations
- Using precise language to 'de-emote'
- Linking different research stewardship areas together (team, Research Office, university wide)

## Upcoming plans....

- Research culture/stewardship strategy
- Updated research integrity and ethics training
- Revising our Research Risk Framework, how we assess risk/benefit and how we operationalise it



**Research stewardship  
cultivates a  
responsible research culture  
for ongoing  
research excellence and impact  
in our  
connected, contested world**



# Acknowledgements

## Research Stewardship Team

Natanya Clarke-Hunt

Emma Kirk

Sharan Kaur

James King

Fiona MacIver

Merrilee Kessler

Michael Miller

Will Ward

Danielle Phibbs

Michelle Afonso

Fiona Herron

Annabel Estasy

Tania Bezzobs

Kate McGrath Chris Turney

Helene de Burgh-Woodman

NSW Research Integrity Group

INFIN (Foreign Interference Network)

UTS Research Data Management Community of Practice

[Allison.Jackson@uts.edu.au](mailto:Allison.Jackson@uts.edu.au)