



MACQUARIE
University
SYDNEY · AUSTRALIA

Office of the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research)
MACQUARIE UNIVERSITY NSW 2109 AUSTRALIA

Phone [REDACTED] 5
Email [REDACTED]

2 December 2025

Professor Ute Roessner
Chief Executive Officer
Australian Research Council
47 Bowes Street
Woden ACT 2601

By email: CEO@arc.gov.au

Dear Professor Roessner

Confidential - Macquarie University Grant FT220100427 (Grant)

Thank you for your letter dated 28 November 2025. Following the order in which they appear in your letter, the University responds as follows:

1. The Chair of the Faculty of Arts Human Research Ethics Sub-Committee has commenced this review work. The University confirms it will advise the ARC within 7 days of the review being completed.
2. With respect to the Grant funds:
 - a. The \$368.30 identified by the University as Grant funds that must be repaid to the ARC has been removed from the Grant expenditure.
 - b. The 19 transactions referred to in the ARC's letter (other than the \$368.30 referred to above) were investigated and found to have been incurred in accordance with the requirements of the Grant Agreement (see Section 4.10 (c) of the Preliminary Assessment [REDACTED]). These 19 transactions were specifically highlighted in the Preliminary Report because they were noted by the ARC in its letter dated 31 July 2025 as items to be considered in the Preliminary Assessment.
 - c. The 93 transactions referred to in the ARC's letter were identified in the EY report as having "exceptions that are not material" but EY suggested that the University conduct further analysis. While not specifically highlighted in the Preliminary Assessment report, the University investigated all 93 transactions and found they were incurred in accordance with the requirements of the Grant Agreement and University policies.
 - d. The University undertakes to have the minor updates to its policy guidance on incidental costs associated with travel completed by 1 February 2026.
3. In accordance with the ARC's notice of suspension dated 12 February 2025, work on the following has not commenced but the University undertakes to oversee completion of the

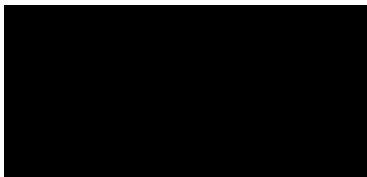
work within 8 weeks of the date the ARC issues any further written notice allowing activity under the Grant to recommence:

- a. Dr Abdel-Fattah to update the risk assessment and management plan and data management plan (and any associated ethics amendments)
- b. Dr Abdel-Fattah to document outcomes (including ethics governance) as to whether the APAN report constitutes or presents research;
- c. Dr Abdel-Fattah to document details of the distinction between personal experiences that may be reflected on versus formal data creation for research purposes; and
- d. Dr Abdel-Fattah to submit an ethics amendment to provide details about the aspects of Grant activity involving autoethnography and Dr Abdel-Fattah's approach to the management of any associated ethic issues.

I take this opportunity to thank the ARC for its willingness to consider a period of time sufficient to address the work outlined in paragraph 3 above.

The University understands the ARC will consider the University's position above and may correspond further with the University as to any determination on the recommencement of Grant activity. Until that time, all activity under the Grant remains suspended pursuant to the ARC's notice of suspension.

Yours sincerely,



Professor Sakkie Pretorius
Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research)
Macquarie University