

University of Newcastle response to questions from The Australian:

Since 1 July 2016 there has been no declared involvement by University of Newcastle academics or researchers in the Thousand Talents Plan.

We value academic freedom and seek to preserve our institution against foreign interference. In 2020 the Vice Chancellor established the Countering Foreign Interference Working Group (CFIWG). This Group will continually examine appropriate methods and systems for identifying, capturing, and mitigating risks of foreign interference on our institution.

As an early step in aligning with the CFI guidelines, the CFIWG will determine the best mechanism for identifying foreign interference risks for the University, including a stand-alone register.

The University of Newcastle will continue, through proactive and robust governance, to work with our academics and researchers to ensure they continue to undertake the range of disclosure, due diligence, research and collaboration agreements, and the intellectual property and legislative obligations that their employment or tenure with our University requires.

We have commenced a review of these matters raised.

This includes of patents overseas, international university memberships and associated MOUs. We anticipate this review will be completed by the end of September. We take the issue of foreign interference very seriously.