



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

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# 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

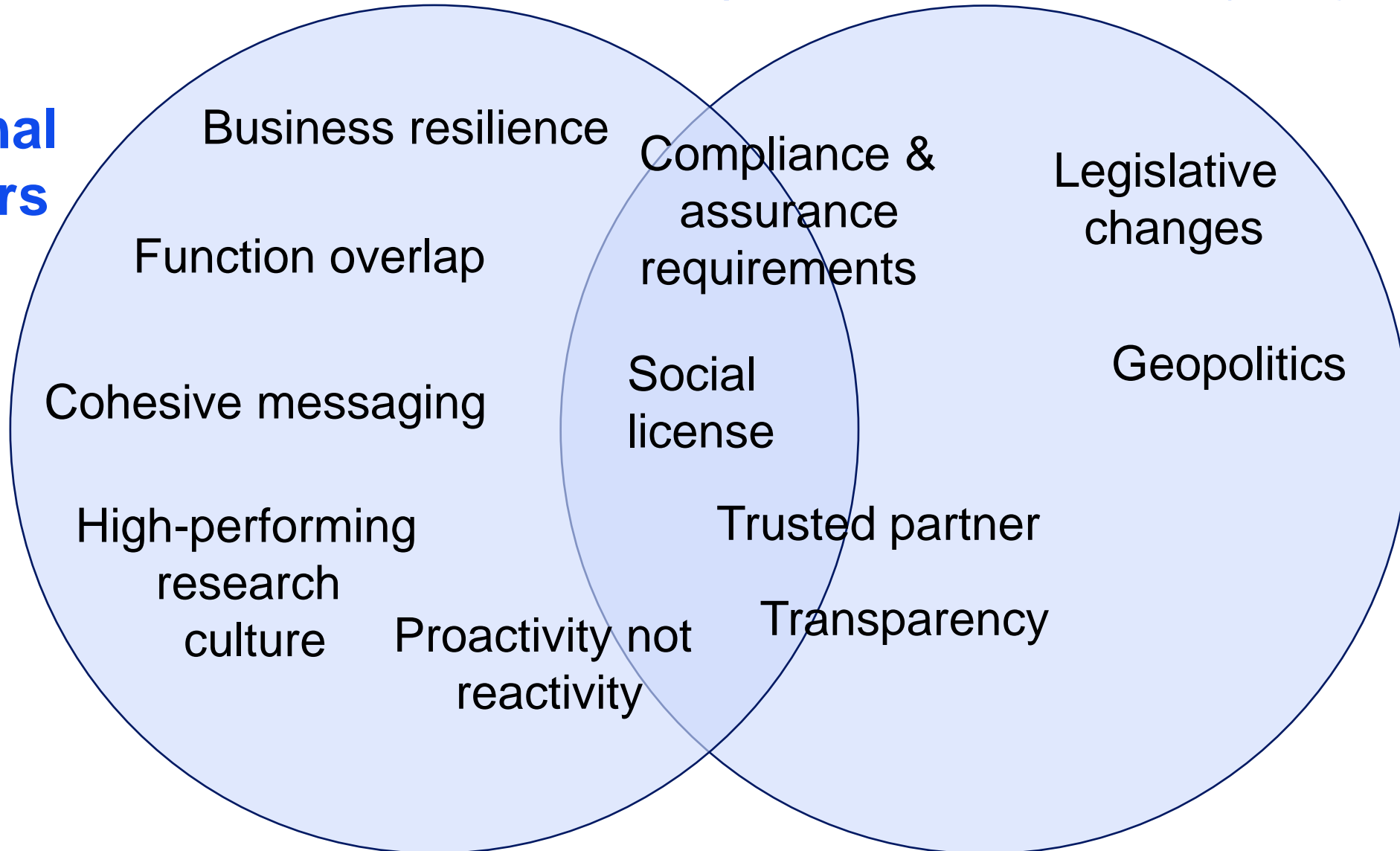


**Research stewardship is the  
responsibility to conduct &  
manage research  
honestly, ethically, &  
conscientiously**

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



**Internal Drivers**



**External Drivers**



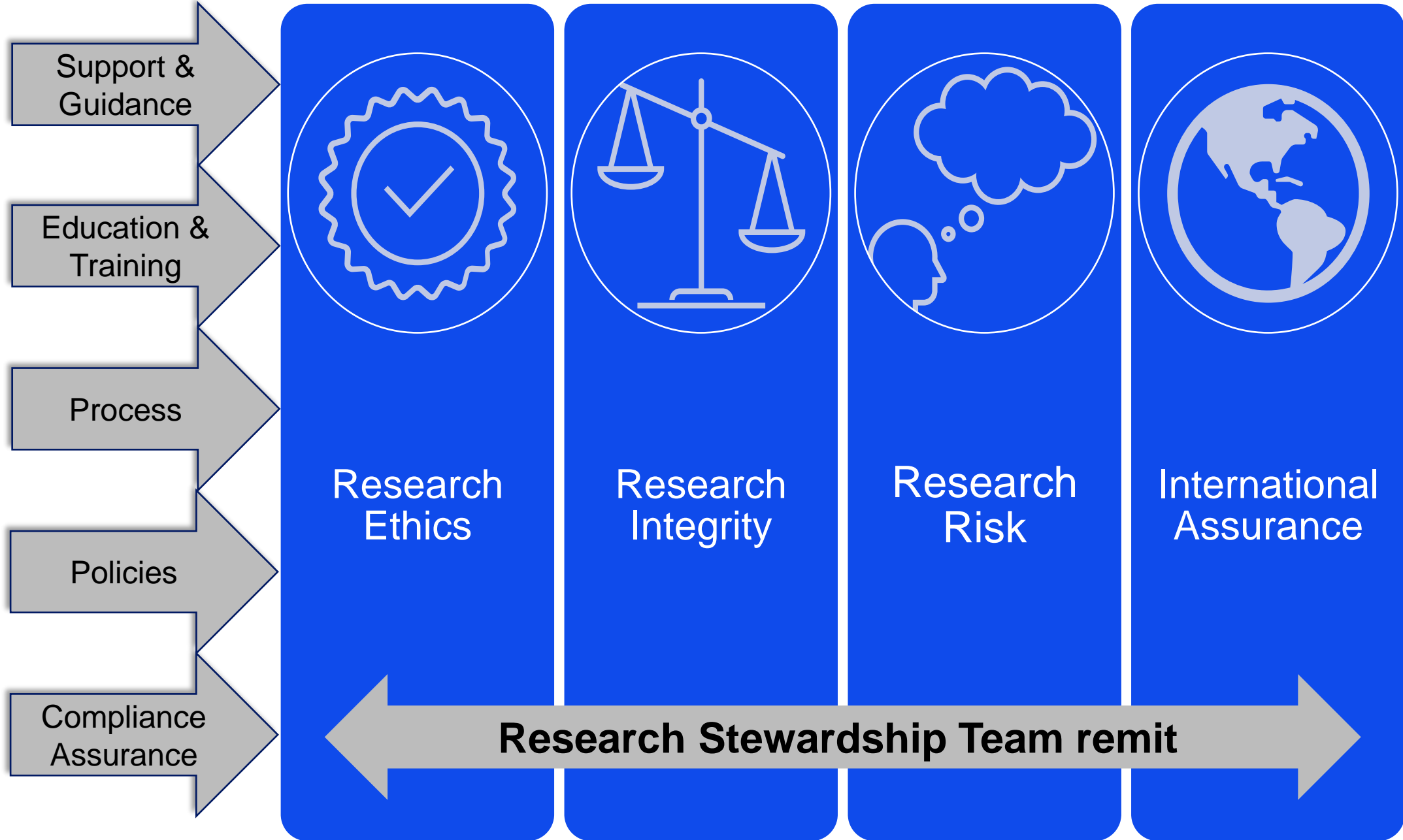
# Research Stewardship Team in the UTS Research Office



*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**