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Ombudsman finds UTS failed to improve handling of gender-based violence reports

The National Student Ombudsman (NSO) has found that the University of Technology Sydney (UTS) failed to action recommendations to improve its processes for handling reports of gender-based violence and sexual harm.

'We want to see urgent and meaningful action taken to improve student safety, ensuring students have access to a safe, effective and trauma-informed way to report Gender Based Violence,' said National Student Ombudsman, Iain Anderson.

The issue was brought to the NSO by a UTS student who was concerned about the pace of action and the risks the delays presented to student safety and wellbeing. The NSO issued this statement to urge providers to prioritise action to prevent and respond to gender-based violence in the higher education sector, and to encourage providers to be open and self-reflective in response to concerns raised by students and the NSO.

The investigation found that UTS had been too slow to implement recommended actions from 2 independent reviews it commissioned in December 2023 and February 2025. UTS accepted all 4 of the NSO's recommendations following the investigation.

The full public statement is available on the NSO website.

For more information visit nso.gov.au or for media enquiries email media@ombudsman.gov.au