



## Communiqué 4 of 2022

**To: All Higher Education Role-players and Stakeholders**

**Subject: Release of the Doctoral Degrees National Report**

**Date: 24 June 2022**

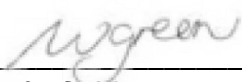
The Council on Higher Education (CHE) and The National Research Foundation (NRF) have since 2017 been engaged in an undertaking to review the quality of doctoral provisioning in South Africa. The objective of this review was to promote and enhance the quality of doctoral studies across South African higher education institutions. The national review commenced in earnest in 2019 following the approval of the national benchmark standard for doctoral degrees. The review was initially intended to be concluded by October 2020, but because of the restrictions brought about by the Covid -19 Pandemic, it was concluded in June 2021. Even in the face of this adversity, the institutions committed their limited resources to ensure successful completion of the review, which is commendable.

This report is an important aspect of the review process, as it provides a composite national picture in respect of the quality assurance of doctoral studies. The report aims to identify and discuss the main findings emerging from the national review, significant strengths, shortcomings, and concerns, and to recommend, where appropriate, ways of addressing problems, constraints and opportunities that have been highlighted.

It is my pleasure on behalf of the CHE to share the Doctoral Degrees National Report with you. Kindly disseminate it as widely as desirable. The electronic [pdf] version is available on the CHE website for unrestricted download and sharing. The Report is also distributed electronically via the CHE's various social media platforms.

The date of a planned formal launch of the Report will be communicated as soon as the hard copies have been printed and are available for distribution.

The CHE will also engage sectoral role-players and stakeholders with a view to considering take-up and implementation of the range of recommendations contained in the report.



**Dr Whitfield Green**  
**Chief Executive Officer**