

February 2008

AUQA News

A Quarterly Newsletter on the Activities of AUQA

Australian Universities Quality Agency

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Welcome to the first edition of AUQA News for 2008.

## 1. Audit Update

### 2008 Audit Panels

The panel members for 2008 university audits (<http://www.auqa.edu.au/qualityaudit/universities/>) and Non Self-Accrediting Institutions (<http://www.auqa.edu.au/qualityaudit/nsai/>) have been approved and are now on the AUQA website.

The following 2008 audits of Self-Accrediting and Non Self-Accrediting Institutions are currently in progress:

- Southern Cross University
- University of Newcastle
- College of Law.

### Progress Report

A Progress Report for the Queensland Office of Higher Education is now available on the AUQA website at: <http://www.auqa.edu.au/qualityaudit/agencies/>.



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## 2. Board News

AUQA congratulates former AUQA Board members Emeritus Professor Denise Bradley AC and Professor Gerard Sutton AO on their Australia Day Honours.

The first meeting of the AUQA Board for 2008 will be held on Tuesday 26 February 2008. The Annual General Meeting of AUQA's members will be held on 18 April 2008. Other meeting dates for 2008 are:

- 3 June
- 19 August
- 25 November.

## 3. Publications

### International Benchmarking Report

AUQA Audit Director **Mr Rob Carmichael** has coauthored a paper with Dorit Gerkens and Marion Moser of the Accreditation, Certification and Quality Assurance Institute (ACQUIN) in Germany, and Ian McKenna of the Higher Education and Training Awards Council (HETAC) in Ireland.

The publication, titled *International Benchmarking of External Quality Assurance Agencies*, reports on a benchmarking project between the three agencies, each of which underwent a recent self-review and external evaluation. The publication is expected to be available from late February on the AUQA website at: <http://www.auqa.edu.au/qualityenhancement/publications/other/>.

Manuscripts currently being prepared for publication are:

- a thematic analysis of AUQA audit reports on community engagement
- a publication on institutional self-review.

Several other publications are in progress. The first Editorial Board teleconference for 2008 was held on 20 February.

## 4. AUQA Staff News

On 3 December 2007, **Dr Rudi Lidl** joined AUQA from the University of Tasmania as an Audit Director. On 2 January 2008, **Dr Mark Hay** joined AUQA as an Audit Director from the position of Director of Institutional Audits at the South African Higher Education Quality Committee of the Council on Higher Education.

On 5 February AUQA said farewell to **Ms Alexandra Maligeorges** who provided part-time administrative assistance and reception duties, in the mornings, over the past year. Staff members joined her in a farewell lunch to wish her all the best for the future and thank her for her assistance. **Ms Naomi Constantine** will be joining AUQA as a full-time Audit and Administration Assistant from 25 February 2008.

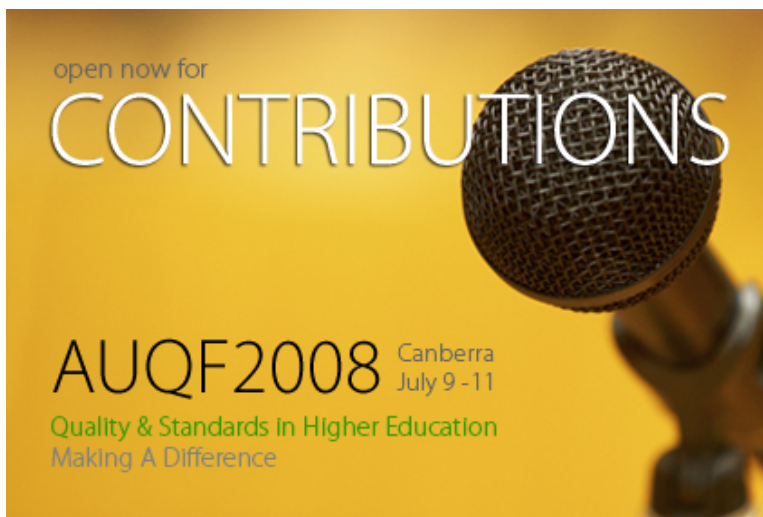
## 5. AUQF2008

AUQF2008 keynote speakers and other international speakers include: **Sir John Daniel**, President and Chief Executive Officer of Commonwealth of Learning, Canada; **Professor Trudy Banta**, Professor of Higher Education and Senior Advisor to the Chancellor for Academic Planning and Evaluation at Indiana University-Purdue University, Indianapolis; and **Professor Roger Brown**, Vice-Chancellor and Professor of Higher Education Policy, Southampton Solent University, and formerly Chief Executive of the Higher Education Quality Council. Details are available on the AUQF website at: <http://www.auqa.edu.au/auqf/2008/contributions/index.htm>.

### Contributions to AUQF2008 Now Open

Submissions for papers to be presented at AUQF2008 will be accepted until **10 March 2008**. Contributions can be sent by email to Claire Gresty at [c.gresty@auqa.edu.au](mailto:c.gresty@auqa.edu.au). AUQF2008 has the theme of 'Quality and Standards in Higher Education: Making a Difference' with the following subthemes:

- Academic Outcomes and Standards
- Learning and Teaching
- Community Engagement
- Research
- International.



For further submission details visit the AUQF website at:

<http://www.auqa.edu.au/auqf/2008/contributions/index.htm>.

## 6. AUQA Workshops

### Workshops in 2008

In 2008 there will be a range of workshops and training opportunities for auditors and for people who want to become auditors or have an interest in various aspects of quality auditing. Planned workshops and events include:

- **Preparing for AUQA Audit – Non Self-Accrediting Higher Education Providers**, Sydney, **14 March**
- **Transnational Education Workshop**, Melbourne, **2 April**
- **Pre-Forum Workshop**, Canberra, **9 July**
- **Auditor Meeting** (only open to AUQA Honorary Auditors), Canberra, **9 July**
- **AUQF 2008**, Canberra, **9–11 July**.

Please note that the date for the TNE workshop in Melbourne was recently changed to **Wednesday 2 April 2008**. Details can be accessed at: <http://www.auqa.edu.au/qualityenhancement/workshops/>.

## 7. DEEWR-funded English Language Proficiency Project

AUQA has received funding from DEEWR for a project in 2008 that will:

- investigate current practice in Australian universities with respect to entry standards, admission practices and entry pathways for international students studying onshore, and
- identify gaps and best practice to develop a set of best practice principles of English proficiency in academic studies.

The first meeting of the project Steering Committee will be held on 29 February 2008. A final report is due by 20 December 2008.

Members of the Steering Committee are: **Dr Jeanette Baird** (Convenor); **Mr Alex Barthel** from the University of Technology, Sydney; AUQA Auditor **Dr Anna Ciccarelli** from the University of South Australia; **Ms Genevieve Hassall** and **Ms Kristie van Omme** from the Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations (DEEWR); **Professor David Ingram**; and **Mr Dennis Murray** from the International Education Association of Australia (IEAA).

## 8. Quality Assurance Council Auditor Training, Hong Kong

In 2007 AUQA was contracted by the Universities Grants Committee in Hong Kong to provide training for the auditors of the newly established Quality Assurance Council (QAC). On 14 January 2008, **Mr Rob Carmichael**, facilitated a training workshop in Hong Kong on quality assurance which was very successful.

## 9. The University of the South Pacific — External Quality Audit

The University of the South Pacific (USP), the regional university established by twelve governments of the South Pacific, has a Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) with the Australian Universities Quality Agency (AUQA) and the New Zealand Universities Academic Audit Unit (NZUAAU), to further its Quality Strategy. The Audit Visit was conducted in Fiji from 11–14 February 2008 with **Dr Antony Stella** on the panel.

## 10. Good Practice Database

### New Good Practices from Auckland University of Technology (AUT)

The AUQA Good Practice Database added four good practices from Auckland University of Technology to its entries. Two of AUT's good practice entries are on the topic of Support Services, one relates to Management, Planning and Review, and another entry titled 'Programme Advisory Committees: Involvement with Curriculum' is about Community and Industry Engagement.

'The AUQA Good Practice Database has proven useful to New Zealand universities looking for good practice developed offshore but in a context not dissimilar to the New Zealand context. It has also showcased New Zealand good practice within a wider context of international good practice,' says John Jennings, Director of the New Zealand Universities Academic Audit Unit.

Entries on the AUQA Good Practice Database can be accessed at [www.auqa.edu.au/gp](http://www.auqa.edu.au/gp).

## 11. Scoping Study of Quality Assurance in Asia-Pacific region

As part of the work arising from the Brisbane Communiqué, the Australian Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations (DEEWR) commissioned the Asia-Pacific Quality Network (APQN) to undertake a scoping study. The scoping study was carried out by AUQA and **Dr Antony Stella**, Audit Director, prepared the report.

## 12. Visitors to AUQA and Other Meetings

### Visitors to AUQA

Since the last Newsletter, AUQA has received a wide range of international and Australian visitors. On 19 November 2007, a delegation from the Ministry of Higher Education, Malaysia was hosted by **Dr Antony Stella**, while Dr Trevor Webb, Assistant Secretary-General of the UGC Secretariat, Hong Kong, met with **Mr Rob Carmichael** on 5 December 2007.

Several international guests attended AUQA's Auditor Training in December 2007, including:

- His Excellency Dr Sci Tech Samnang, Secretary-General of ACC, Cambodia and Mr Bunnith HEAN, Senior Cooperation Officer, Co-op and Information Department, ACC, Cambodia, and
- Dr Wafa Al Mansoori, Quality Review Director, Kingdom of Bahrain.

AUQA was also visited by a delegation from the Swedish Agency for Networks and Co-operation in Higher Education (NSHU) on 6 December 2007. Three visitors from the Evaluation Research Institute, Board of Audit and Inspection, Korea, visited AUQA on 14 December 2007.

A delegation of five researchers from Kanazawa University Research Center for Higher Education visited AUQA on 16 January 2008, while a delegation from the Zhejiang University from the People's Republic of China was hosted by **Dr Rudi Lidl**, **Dr Antony Stella**, and **Dr Mark Hay** on 29 January 2008.

On 14 December 2007, AUQA had two (unexpected) international visitors: Dr Lee, Tai Yul, Research Managing Director, Evaluation Research Institute (ERI), from the Board of Audit and Inspection of Korea, and Dr Oh, Yun Scob, Research Fellow, Society and Administration Senior Research Team, ERI.

AUQA received visits from Sandi Stoddard and Professor Scott Bowman of AUCEA on 25 January 2008. Dr Ellen Hazelkorn will visit AUQA to discuss rankings on 28 February 2008.

### Other Presentations and Visits by AUQA Staff

**Dr Jeanette Baird** gave a keynote address at the regional conference on higher education, 'Quality-driven Initiatives: Sharing Good Practices in Higher Education', organised by the University of Malaya on 10–11 December 2007, while **Dr David Woodhouse** gave a presentation at the European Consortium for Accreditation (ECA) Conference, Barcelona, on 11–13 December 2007.

**Mr Rob Carmichael** gave a presentation in Hong Kong on 14 January 2008. **Dr David Woodhouse** gave a presentation to the Council for Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA), at the 2008 International Commission Meeting in Washington on 31 January 2008.

**Dr Antony Stella** made a presentation to UNESCO Bangkok, Thailand, on 'QA in HE for Sustainable Development' on 14 December 2007. Dr Stella was also presenter and workshop leader at the UNESCO 'Regional QA strategy for Small States' in Paris, France, from 4–5 February 2008.

The Chair of the AUQA Board, **Emeritus Professor Deryck Schreuder**, and **Dr David Woodhouse** met with the Minister for Higher Education in South Australia, The Hon. Paul Caica MP, to discuss aspects of AUQA on 7 February 2008.