

May 2006

# AUQA News

A Quarterly Newsletter on the Activities of AUQA

Australian Universities Quality Agency

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## 1. Audit Update

### 2005 Audits

Since the February newsletter, reports have been published for the remaining 2005 auditees:

- University of Wollongong
- Queensland Department of Education and the Arts Higher Education Approvals Functions
- Northern Territory Department of Employment, Education and Training  
Higher Education Approvals Functions
- University of New South Wales
- Central Queensland University.

### 2006 Audits

The Audit Report for the Department of Education Services Western Australia is now available.

The Audit Visits for Murdoch University and the University of Technology Sydney are taking place in May and the Audit Visit for Batchelor Institute of Indigenous Tertiary Education is occurring in June 2006. Details of 2006 audits and Audit Panels are available from:

<http://www.auqa.edu.au/qualityaudit/auditschedule/index.shtml>.



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## Progress Reports

Audit Progress Reports from cycle 1 are being added progressively to the AUQA website. Progress Reports are accessible at [http://www.auqa.edu.au/qualityaudit/sai\\_reports/index.shtml](http://www.auqa.edu.au/qualityaudit/sai_reports/index.shtml) for the following institutions:

University of Adelaide	University of Newcastle
Australian Catholic University	University of Notre Dame Australia
Australian Maritime College	University of Queensland
University of Ballarat	RMIT University
University of Canberra	Southern Cross University
Curtin University of Technology	University of South Australia
Griffith University	University of Southern Queensland
Macquarie University	Swinburne University of Technology
University of New England	University of Western Australia

## 2. Staff Update

AUQA welcomes Davina Sutton-Driscoll, who joined us in April 2006 to provide additional part-time administrative support.

## 3. External review of AUQA

The review panel submitted a draft report to AUQA on 13 April for comments on matters of fact and emphasis. The final report will be discussed by the AUQA Board in its meeting on 5 and 6 June. The Report and AUQA performance portfolio will be made public on 9 June.

## 4. Board News

Board meeting dates for the remainder of 2006 are:

- 5 and 6 June (two-day meeting)
- 5 September
- 28 November

### Board Membership

The Board wishes to thank the retired AUQA Board Directors, **Ms Stella Axarlis AM**, who served on the AUQA Board for two terms, and **Professor Peter Sheehan AO**, for their contributions.

The following directors have been appointed from 1 April 2006 for a term of three years:

- **Mr Colin Walters** (reappointed)
- **Mr Patrick Coleman** (replacement for Ms Stella Axarlis)
- **Mr Ian Hawke** (reappointed)
- **Mr Clive Hildebrand** (reappointed)
- **Professor James McWha** (reappointed)
- **Professor Ian O'Connor** (replacement for Professor Peter Sheehan)

## AUQA Annual Report 2005

The 2005 AUQA Annual Report is available from the AUQA website at:

<http://www.auqa.edu.au/aboutauqa/annualreports/>.

## 5. AUQA Audit Cycle 2 — Advice on Scheduling of Audits

**The following announcement was distributed by AUQA on 4 May 2006.**

‘AUQA began its substantive audits in 2002 on a planned cycle of about five years. As the five years are up in 2007, some institutions and accrediting agencies have asked AUQA when they can expect the next AUQA audit.

In order to ensure that all auditees have at least 12 months notice of the nature of and requirements for audits in Cycle 2, AUQA began discussions on this with the sector during 2005, and received extensive input. AUQA has itself just been reviewed and the review panel was invited to make suggestions in relation to future audits. The review panel’s report will be discussed by the Board of AUQA at the beginning of June 2006. At that time, decisions on a range of matters will be taken, and some of the review panel’s recommendations will be referred to MCEETYA for attention. In respect of audit Cycle 2, AUQA will draw on the input from the sector and the suggestions from the review panel, and will work with institutions and agencies in July/August 2006 to flesh out the details of Cycle 2. The last audits of the first cycle will occur during the first half of 2007, with the last audit report of the cycle due in about July/August 2007. Following this:

**The first portfolios for Cycle 2 audits will be due in October/November 2007, and the first audit visits will be early in 2008.**

The audit sequence was chosen by lot in Cycle 1. It would be unfortunate to set that random order in concrete, but yet it must be approximately followed or some auditees will have audits unhelpfully close. Therefore, the auditees for the first year of Cycle 2 will be selected at random from those in years one and two of Cycle 1; the auditees for the second year of Cycle 2 will be the remainder of those from year one of Cycle 1, plus a random selection from those in years two and three of Cycle 1; and so on. Also, in Cycle 2, AUQA intends to spread the audits more evenly through each year, not acceding to their clustering late in the year.

**Therefore, the audit sequence in Cycle 2 will be approximately that of Cycle 1, varying by at most a year for each auditee.**

Note that AUQA expects to be undertaking the first audits for a number of non self-accrediting higher education providers in 2007, mainly in the second half of the year.’

## 6. News of AUQA Auditors

**Professor Stuart Macintyre**, Dean of Arts at the University of Melbourne, has been appointed as the new chair of Australian Studies at Harvard University for the 2007–2008 academic year.

Two AUQA auditors, **Professor Bob Zemsky** and **Professor Bill Massy**, together with Gregory R. Wegner, are the authors of a recent book, *Remaking the American University: Market-Smart and Mission-Centered*, Rutgers University Press, 2005.

Professor Zemsky is a member of the US Commission on the Future of Higher Education, established in September 2005 to develop a comprehensive national strategy for postsecondary education that will meet the future needs of America's diverse population and workforce.

## 7. Auditor Workshops

### Workshop on Self-Reviews — 6 March 2006

A self-review workshop was held in Brisbane on 6 March 2006, facilitated by Robyn Adams, AUQA Audit Director, and Professor Jenny Strong of the University of Queensland. The objectives of the workshop were to:

- identify principles underpinning effective planning, implementation and follow through of self-review processes
- share experiences and approaches to conducting self-review processes, and
- identify potential pitfalls and benefits of self-review processes.

The workshop was attended by 28 participants from across SAIs and NSAs and included participants from Fiji. All respondents agreed that the session met their expectations. Group work undertaken at the workshop will be developed further to provide the basis for future training and feedback to a wider audience.

### Auditor Training Workshop on Auditing Transnational Education — 10 April 2006

The second special-purpose Auditor Training workshop on Auditing Transnational Education was held on 10 April 2006 in Sydney. The training was attended by 32 participants. The program included presentations on:

- AUQA's approach when auditing overseas
- the quality assurance framework for offshore activities of the University of Technology Sydney
- language requirements especially as tested by IELTS
- auditing offshore partnerships
- overseas agents
- auditing offshore campuses, and
- the main findings from AUQA's country visits to Hong Kong, Malaysia and Singapore.

### AUQF Pre-forum Workshop — 5 July 2006

As in previous years, AUQA is offering a pre-forum workshop. This year, the title of the Workshop is 'Embedding Quality Assurance in Cultures that Value Diversity'. The Workshop will be held from 2.30pm to 4.00pm on 5 July. It will explore the concept of diversity and consider approaches and strategies for embedding diversity values into institutional planning and quality assurance systems.

The Workshop will be facilitated by Ms **Amanda Willis**, Director, Ethics, Equity and Social Justice, Curtin University of Technology and Ms **Robyn Adams**, AUQA Audit Director. Registration for the Workshop is via the AUQF website at: <http://www.auqa.edu.au/auqf/2006/registration/index.php>.

## 8. AUQF2006 Quality Outcomes and Diversity — Update

AUQF2006 will be held from **5 to 7 July 2006 in Perth** at the Parmelia Hilton. Registration for AUQF is now open at <http://www.auqa.edu.au/auqf/>. Early bird registration rates are available until **2 June**. Day registrations are also available.

All keynote speakers and panel participants have been confirmed and the program is available on the AUQF website. The Joint Steering Group for AUQF2006 is honoured to have a range of speakers from Australia and overseas, from UNESCO Bangkok, the Indiana University Bloomington School of Education in the US, and the Higher Education Academy in the UK.

For further information on AUQF2006 or to be added to the AUQF mailing list, please email AUQF Administrator Elizabeth Burke ([e.burke@auqa.edu.au](mailto:e.burke@auqa.edu.au)).

### **AUQF–HERDSA Joint Colloquia — 9 July 2006**

AUQA is cooperating with HERDSA to offer three colloquia on Sunday 9 July, on the following topics: Higher Education Research — Context and Complexities; Leading Universities — Leadership in Higher Education; and Learning and Teaching in an International Context.

The HERDSA conference will be held from 10 to 13 July in Perth. Registration for any of the colloquia is via the HERDSA website at <http://conference.herdsa.org.au/2006/registration.cfm>.

### **AUQF2004 update**

Those who attended AUQF2004: ‘Quality in a Time of Change’ in Adelaide may be interested to hear that the AUQF2004 international keynote address given by Professor Jim Dator, ‘Universities without “Quality” and Quality without “Universities”’ won Outstanding Paper of the Year, 2006, for the journal, *On the Horizon*, in which it was subsequently published. Jim Dator is Head of the Department of Political Science and Hawaii Research Centre for Future Studies at the University of Hawaii.

## **9. Asia-Pacific Quality Network (APQN)**

### **APQN Conference and Annual General Meeting (AGM) — Shanghai**

The Shanghai Educational Evaluation Institution (SEEI) hosted the Asia-Pacific Quality Network’s Conference (Regional Mobility: Cooperation in Quality Assurance) and AGM in Shanghai, China from 1 to 4 March 2006. The AGM was open to all APQN members. Approximately 90 delegates from around 52 agencies/universities across 24 Countries/Territories were present.

All presentations from the Conference, including the opening and closing speeches, are available on the APQN website at <http://www.apqn.org/events/past/details/32/presentations/>.



Reports from the President and Secretary/Treasurer are also available on the APQN website in the minutes of the AGM at [http://www.apqn.org/files/events/minutes/sh\\_2006\\_agm\\_minutes.pdf](http://www.apqn.org/files/events/minutes/sh_2006_agm_minutes.pdf).

### **APQN Annual Report 2005–2006**

The APQN Annual Report 2005–2006 was published at [http://www.apqn.org/virtual\\_library/](http://www.apqn.org/virtual_library/) on 10 April 2006, shortly following the AGM.

### **APQN Membership**

Membership numbers have grown considerably this year. APQN now has: 16 full members; 5 intermediate members; 10 associate members; and 2 observers. One new application is under review and 37 additional applications are in progress.

### **UNESCO/APQN Toolkit**

UNESCO and APQN are preparing a Toolkit: Regulating Quality Assurance in Cross-Border Education. The Toolkit, which is based on the UNESCO/OECD Guidelines on Quality Provision in Cross-Border Higher Education, is designed to provide a reference tool to assist governments and quality assurance agencies with the development of regulatory frameworks for quality assurance in cross-border education whether from the importer or exporter perspective.

## **10. Visitors to AUQA and Other Presentations**

Visitors to AUQA during the period February to May included: delegates from the Southeast Asian Ministers of Education Organization (SEAMEO); the Vice-Minister of Education and a delegation from the People's Republic of China; a delegation from Taiwanese universities; delegations from Japanese universities and from the Japan University Accreditation Association (JUAA); and a delegation from the Public Authority for Applied Education and Training in Kuwait.

AUQA has made presentations and given workshops at a range of international meetings including: the APQN Shanghai Conference, 'Regional Mobility: Cooperation in Quality Assurance'; the pre-conference seminar for the 'International Education a Matter of Heart' Conference in Kuala Lumpur; and a JUAA workshop, 'In Pursuit of Effective Operation and Efficiency in University Evaluation Systems', in Tokyo.