

May 2007

# AUQA News

A Quarterly Newsletter on the Activities of AUQA

Australian Universities Quality Agency

## CONTENTS

1. Audit Update .....	1
2. AQUA Audit Cycle 2 .....	2
3. NSAI Audits and Workshop for NSAI's .....	2
4. AUQA's Objectives .....	2
5. Board News.....	2
6. AUQA Announces Appointment of New Audit Director .....	3
7. AUQA Staff News .....	3
8. Australian Higher Education Quality Award 2007 .....	4
9. AUQF2007: Early Bird Registrations Close 1 June .....	4
10. AUQA Good Practice Database.....	4
11. International Network for Quality Assurance Agencies in Higher Education (INQAAHE) .....	5
12. Asia-Pacific Quality Network (APQN) .....	5
13. Visitors to AUQA and Other Meetings.....	7

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## 1. Audit Update

### 2007 Audits

Four audits are currently in progress:

- Australian Film Television and Radio School
- Australian National University
- Tasmanian Qualifications Authority
- Department of Education, Science and Training's accreditation function.

These audits will complete the first cycle of audits of self-accrediting institutions (SAIs) and agencies.



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## 2. AQUA Audit Cycle 2

### Audit Manual

Version 4.0 of the AUQA Audit Manual is now available for download or in HTML online at: <http://www.auqa.edu.au/qualityaudit/auditmanuals/index.shtml>. Version 4.0 has been prepared for universities and other self-accrediting institutions, addressing Cycle 2 audits and first-time audits. The AUQA Board has agreed that SAIs to be audited in 2008, including those with performance portfolios due in late 2007, should follow version 4.0 of the Manual, which is only available online. The next revision of the Audit Manual will take place later in 2007.

### Cycle 2 Audits and Cycle 2 Reference Group

Preparation for the second cycle of audits of SAIs is under way, and audit themes have been selected for several universities. The Cycle 2 Reference Group has approved a risk analysis approach for theme selection, and is now working on a Framework on Standards, Evidence and Outcomes for evaluating academic standards.

## 3. NSAI Audits and Workshop for NSAI

AUQA is also planning for audits of non-self accrediting (NSAI) higher education providers (HEPs). It is estimated that some 50 HEPs may choose or be required to be audited by AUQA, and a new division of AUQA will be created for this purpose, starting in 2008. The Auditor Register will be augmented by the addition of auditors who have experience of NSAI operations. One NSAI HEP has been audited already, while another audit is planned for late in 2007, followed by a few audits in 2008. The main load will be spread over 2009 to 2012.

## 4. AUQA's Objectives

As previously noted, the external review of AUQA recommended some revision of AUQA's Objectives, to make them more precise and to include reference to AUQA's quality improvement, research and international activities. MCEETYA has endorsed the revised Objectives, which were approved by AUQA's Members at the Annual General Meeting on 18 April 2007. AUQA's revised Mission, Objectives, Vision and Values are on the AUQA website at: <http://www.auqa.edu.au/aboutauqa/auqainfo/index.shtml>.

## 5. Board News

Three new directors have been appointed to the Board of AUQA from 1 April 2007 for a term of three years:

- **Professor Bill Lovegrove**, (Vice-Chancellor and President of the University of Southern Queensland)
- **Professor Alan Pettigrew**, (Vice-Chancellor and CEO of The University of New England)
- **Emeritus Professor L Michael Koder AM**, (Chair of the Academic Board of the Australian College of Physical Education).

The Board wishes to thank the retired AUQA Board Directors, **Emeritus Professor Ingrid Moses AM**, who served on the AUQA Board from its inception in 2001, **Emeritus Professor Millicent Poole** and **Reverend Dr Mark Harding** for their respective contributions to the AUQA Board.

### **AUQA Annual General Meeting**

AUQA's Annual General Meeting (AGM) was held on 18 April 2007. As responsibility for chairing the 2007 meeting rested with the Northern Territory (NT), Ms Margaret Banks representing the Hon. Paul Henderson MLA (NT) chaired the meeting. During the meeting the Members approved the financial report for 2006 and received the Annual Report 2006. At the meeting, the three new appointments to the AUQA Board and the AUQA Constitution with the revised Objectives were noted.

## **6. AUQA Announces Appointment of New Audit Director**

Professor Rudi Lidl, the outgoing Deputy Vice-Chancellor of the University of Tasmania (UTAS), will be joining AUQA as an Audit Director. Professor Lidl will take up the full-time appointment in December 2007, on secondment from UTAS.

In announcing the appointment, AUQA Executive Director Dr David Woodhouse said he was delighted with Professor Lidl's appointment. 'The appointment recognises the high level of expertise and experience Professor Lidl has in what is a very specialised and important field of education management,' Dr Woodhouse said. 'AUQA already has a high opinion of Rudi Lidl from his work as an AUQA auditor.'

Accepting the appointment, Professor Lidl said AUQA, as the principal national quality assurance agency in higher education, was responsible for monitoring and auditing standards and accreditations in Australian universities. 'With the growing internationalisation of higher education it is particularly important that Australian universities are part of a process which sets quality standards and performance outcomes,' Professor Lidl said. 'I look forward to taking up the challenge of this position and working with Australia's leading higher education quality audit professionals.'

Professor Lidl will return to UTAS late in 2009.

## **7. AUQA Staff News**

**Dr David Woodhouse** is the incoming President of the International Network for Quality Assurance Agencies in Higher Education (INQAAHE). He commenced his two-year term as President in April, at the INQAAHE General Assembly meeting and Biennial Conference in Toronto.

Audit Director **Dr Jeanette Baird** is based in Bahrain until the end of May, where she is working on AUQA's consultative project of creating a universities quality agency for the Kingdom of Bahrain. She will be joined by **Kevin Brett** in May.

With considerable sadness, AUQA said a fond farewell to **Elizabeth Burke** on 5 April 2007, after five years with the organisation. Elizabeth has taken a position as Co-ordinator, Entrepreneurship Programs, in the Innovation Unit at RMIT Business. Elizabeth was a 'founding member' of the AUQA staff, having joined AUQA in September 2001. We thank Elizabeth for her tremendous

contribution as Audit Support Administrator and for organising a successful AUQF2006 and helping to pave the way for AUQF2007. We know that auditors will join with us in thanking Elizabeth for her valued participation as part of the professional team and in wishing her all the best in her new role.

On 3 April 2007, AUQA welcomed **Claire Gresty** to the position of Events and Travel Manager. Claire has taken over the event management of AUQF2007, just as registrations have begun. She is also arranging the Auditor Workshops and is responsible for all travel arrangements and bookings for workshops and audits throughout the year. Claire can be contacted by email at [c.gresty@auqa.edu.au](mailto:c.gresty@auqa.edu.au) and her direct phone number is (03) 9664 1040.

## 8. Australian Higher Education Quality Award 2007

The nominations for the 2007 Australian Higher Education Quality Award are now being reviewed. The Award, which celebrates the achievements of individuals in quality assurance in the higher education sector, will be presented during AUQF2007 in Hobart on **Friday 13 July**.

## 9. AUQF2007: Early Bird Registrations Close 1 June

AUQF2007 will take place in Hobart on 11–13 July 2007. Registration for AUQF2007 opened on 3 April on the AUQA website at: <http://www.auqa.edu.au/auqf/2007/registration/index.php>.

Early bird registration rates are available until **1 June 2007**. The Program is available at: <http://www.auqa.edu.au/auqf/2007/program/index.htm>.

Keynote speakers have been confirmed as follows:

Day 1, 11 July: **Emeritus Professor Deryck Schreuder**

Day 2, 12 July: **Professor Robert Zemsky, USA**

**Topic:** 'Leveraging change — what the American and European experiences are teaching us about the process of changing higher education'.

Day 3, 13 July: **Professor Roger Brown, UK**

**Topic:** 'Can quality assurance resist the market?'

## AUQF2008 and AUQF2009: Proposed dates

AUQF2008 will be held in Canberra. The proposed dates are **July 9–11 2008**.

The proposed dates for AUQF2009 are **July 8–10 2009** with the location yet to be confirmed.

## 10. AUQA Good Practice Database

Over 20 new Good Practice entries are expected to be launched in mid-June 2007. Contributors include: Flinders University; Monash University; Murdoch University; the University of New South Wales; University of Technology, Sydney; and Victoria University. The new entries will include a significant number of practices on the topics of Teaching and Learning, Management Planning and Review, and Support Services. Other new practices address topics such as Accreditation and Approval, Indigenous Issues and International Activities. Visit the Good Practice Database for further updates at: <http://www.auqa.edu.au/gp/search/index.php>.

## 11. International Network for Quality Assurance Agencies in Higher Education (INQAAHE)

*reported by David Woodhouse, President*

The International Network for Quality Assurance Agencies in Higher Education (INQAAHE) held its biennial conference in Toronto from 2–5 April. The Conference was attended by over 250 people from 60 countries. This year the Conference was hosted by the Ontario Postsecondary Education Quality Assessment Board, and the Program Committee was chaired by Dorte Kristoffersen of AUQA.



**Dr David Woodhouse  
at the INQAAHE  
biennial conference,  
Toronto, April 2007.**

There was a good range of plenary and parallel paper sessions, and attendance remained high throughout. The Chair of the AUQA Board and four AUQA staff gave papers on various aspects of quality assurance.

The World Bank has contributed funds for development of capacity in quality assurance in higher education in various regions over the last couple of years, and now wishes to make the grant a global one for the next three years, in collaboration with UNESCO. There was some discussion at the Conference about how this will be done, and the role to be played by INQAAHE and the regional area networks.

The 2009 Conference will be held in the United Arab Emirates, while the annual Forum that is held between Conferences will take place in Buenos Aires in 2008.

## 12. Asia-Pacific Quality Network (APQN)

### APQN Board

The new APQN Board was elected just prior to the APQN Conference and Annual General Meeting in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia in February 2007. Board Member information is available at <http://www.apqn.org/about/board/>.



**The newly elected APQN Board (2007–2009).**

### **Defining our Region**

A new definition of the region was passed at a meeting of the Board and presented to the General Council in Kuala Lumpur, March 2007. Visit the website at <http://www.apqn.org/membership/region/> for the new definition.

### **Constitution (Institutional Member)**

Since February 2007, APQN has a new category of membership called Institutional Member. For the membership criteria of this new category visit the website at: <http://www.apqn.org/membership/criteria/>. The fees table has also been updated to reflect this addition, for further information see the table at: [http://www.apqn.org/membership/fee\\_structure/](http://www.apqn.org/membership/fee_structure/).

### **Virtual Library**

Presentations from past APQN events can be accessed at: [http://www.apqn.org/virtual\\_library/](http://www.apqn.org/virtual_library/).

### **Events**

Photographs, presentations and papers from the APQN Conference and Annual General Meeting in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, are available at: <http://www.apqn.org/events/past/details/?id=102>.



**Sponsored delegates attending the APQN Conference and AGM in Kuala Lumpur, 4-7 February 2007.**

APQN sponsored a workshop held on **12–13 March 2007**, ‘Internal Quality Assurance: Key Factors for Ensuring and Enhancing Quality in Higher Education Institutions’. The event was organised by the Vietnam National University in Ho Chi Minh City. The workshop, which was facilitated by Dr Ton Vroeijenstijn and Dr Jeanette Baird, with the support of eight sponsored international participants, focused on the use of the AUN-QA Guidelines. Over 50 people from Vietnamese universities and the region attended this successful event.

More information about this workshop is available at: <http://www.apqn.org/events/past/>.



**Participants at the APQN-sponsored workshop in Ho Chi Minh City, 12–13 March 2007.**

### **Forthcoming APQN Workshop**

APQN is soon to conduct a workshop in Dhaka, Bangladesh on **30–31 May 2007**, which is titled, ‘Development of Measurements for Higher Education Quality Assurance’.

## **13. Visitors to AUQA and Other Meetings**

Over the period from mid-February to 9 May 2007, AUQA has hosted a number of international and national visitors including: the Columbian Minister of Education and delegation; visitors from the University of Chulanlongkorn Thailand; and delegations from the Chinese Ministry of Education and the Singapore Higher Education Group. National visitors to AUQA included a group from RMIT on 2 May 2007.

In February, AUQA visited Bangkok, Thailand, to strengthen the country relationships in quality assurance and met with: Professor Somwung Pitiyanuwat, Director of the Office of National Education Standards and Quality Assessment in Bangkok and Dr Nuantip Kamolvarin; Dr Sheldon Shaeffer, Director of UNESCO-Bangkok; and Dr Edilberto de Jesus, Director of the SEAMEO Secretariat, Thailand. In March 2007, David Woodhouse gave a presentation at the AEI Middle East Familiarisation Dinner in Melbourne. AUQA also gave a presentation at the British Council’s Transnational Education Symposium in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, on 27–28 March.