

November 2008
www.auqa.edu.au



AUQA News

Australian Universities Quality Agency
Level 10, 123 Lonsdale Street
Melbourne 3000
Tel: +61 3 9664 1000
Fax: +61 3 9639 7377

Welcome

Welcome to the final AUQA News for 2008 and all best wishes for 2009.

We would welcome your feedback on the new format of AUQA News, and on its content.

Please email comments to Jeanette Baird j.baird@auqa.edu.au or Claire Gresty c.gresty@auqa.edu.au

Audit Update

The following Audit Reports have become available since the August newsletter:

- Griffith University
- Moore Theological College

2008 Audits

All other 2008 audits are proceeding as scheduled.

Progress Reports

Progress Reports linked from the AUQA website since the last newsletter are:

- University of the Sunshine Coast
- Victoria University

Audit Reports and Progress Reports are available from the AUQA website at: www.auqa.edu.au/qualityaudit/index.php

Board News

Chair of the AUQA Board, Emeritus Professor Deryck Schreuder, will chair the Prime Minister's Australian History Prize Advisory Committee for 2008. The Prize is awarded to an individual or group who have made an outstanding contribution to our understanding of Australian History.

AUQA Board member Mr Colin Walters and Mr Allan Tait (AUQA Finance Committee member) presented at the 'Innovative Finance for Universities' conference, held on 29–30 October in Sydney.

The fourth AUQA Board meeting for 2008 will be held on 25 November.

In the media

In addition to coverage of AUQA audit report findings, AUQA has featured in a range of media articles including:

Business with a conscience (Melissa Yeo), [Business Times Singapore](#), 29 July 2008

Measure for measure (Kerri-Lee Harris), [Campus Review](#), 12 August 2008

AUCEA makes its move (Julie Hare), [Campus Review](#), 12 August 2008

Doubts over criteria for quality audit (Bernard Lane), [The Australian Higher Education Supplement](#), 27 August 2008

Ratting on the rankings (David Woodhouse), [The Australian Higher Education Supplement](#), 27 August 2008

Vice-Chancellor extends his uni contract (Alison Branley), [The Herald](#) (Newcastle), 19 September 2008

Rank and file (Margaret Cook), [The Age Education Supplement](#), 13 October 2008

Issues in education: learning from Australia on qualifications assessment (Dorcas Molefe), Owen Pansiri & Sheldon Weeks), [Mmegi Online](#) (Botswana), 13 October 2008

Compulsory English on the cards (Joanna Mather), [Australian Financial Review Education Liftout](#), 10 November 2008

Robust quality, modestly stated, [International Focus](#), UK Higher Education International Unit, 12 November 2008. This article comments positively on AUQA's submission to the Bradley Review regarding national approaches to academic standards.

News of AUQA Auditors

Professor MaryAnn Bin-Sallik has been awarded an



Professor Bin-Salik

emeritus professorship at Charles Darwin University. Professor Bin-Sallik was formerly Dean of Indigenous Research and Education at CDU, and is a visiting lecturer at several overseas universities.

Professor Larissa

Behrendt delivered the 17th Maurice Blackburn Oration, 'Reconciliation in a Civil

Society: How do we make reconciliation meaningful after the apology?' at Brunswick Town Hall, Melbourne, on 30 October 2008.

Professor Behrendt



Professor Daly

Professor John Daly has been appointed chair of the Global Alliance for Nursing Education and Scholarship.

Professor David Goodman

has been appointed Director, Institute of Social Sciences, and Professor of Chinese Politics at the University of Sydney and will take up this position in January 2009.



Professor Goodman



Publications

The following publications have been released since the last newsletter:

- Internationalisation of Australian Universities: Learning from Cycle 1 Audits
- Community Engagement and Inclusion in Australian Higher Education: A Thematic Analysis of AUQA's Cycle 1 Audits
- Proceedings of AUQF2008: Quality & Standards in Higher Education: Making a Difference
- Education of International Students in Australia: Quality Framework of AUQA

These publications are available at www.auqa.edu.au/qualityenhancement/publications/.

A publication on self-review for higher education institutions is expected to be released shortly.

AUQF2009

The AUQF2009 Joint Steering Group is pleased to announce that AUQF2009 will be held at the Alice Springs Convention Centre, 1-3 July 2009.

In 2009 the forum theme is 'Internal & External Quality Assurance: Tensions & Synergies'. The program is intended to reflect the evolving relationship between external and internal quality assurance as understandings of quality assurance in the higher education sector mature.

The Deputy Prime Minister, the Hon Julia Gillard MP, has been invited to present a keynote address on maintaining excellence in the sector.

Other elements of the program include: a panel of vice-chancellors reflecting on whether external quality audit has made a difference to practice in the sector; a panel of Indigenous Australian quality experts discussing whether opportunities for Indigenous participation in higher education are enhanced by developments in quality assurance; and a panel of media commentators.

As well, the program will address issues of particular relevance to those operating in non-university higher education providers and to students.

Advisory Group on Academic Standards in Australian Higher Education

A high-level Advisory Group (AG) has been established by the AUQA Board for further work on assessing and monitoring academic standards. Broadly, the Terms of Reference for the AG are to develop a generalisable national structure for academic standards for Australian higher education in collaboration with the higher education sector. This structure should be technically rigorous, informed by research and designed to monitor and enhance practice. It should inspire demonstrable diversity and excellence, and should offer Australian institutions ways of demonstrating performance that suit their individual missions. Importantly, it should help to position Australian higher education at the forefront of international practice.

AUQA has taken the responsibility to initiate this project as part of its mandate to assess and report on the standards achieved by higher education institutions. The new Advisory Group will build on outcomes of AUQA's 2007 Reference Group on academic standards. The Advisory Group will also keep in touch with the ALTC project on Teaching Quality Indicators (with common membership of the respective groups), as a possible outcome of the Teaching Quality Indicators project has been stated as 'an Australian approach to assessment in higher education'.

The Advisory Group includes a representative selection from sector groups and acknowledged experts in the field. International experts will be invited to comment on the AG's work. Its current membership includes: Professor Richard James, University of Melbourne; Professor D. Royce Sadler, Griffith University; Associate Professor Peter Hutchings, ALTC; Professor Jane den Hollander, Curtin University of Technology; Ms Catherine Vandermark, DEEWR; Dr Hamish Coates, ACER; Emeritus Professor Ruth Grant; a nominee of Universities Australia; Dr David Woodhouse (Convener); and Dr Antony Stella, AUQA.

At its first meeting, on 31 October, the Advisory Group explored contemporary contexts and considered various options for developing work around academic standards. Sector-wide consultations are planned for 2009.

Development of Good Practice Principles for English Language Competency

The DEEWR-funded Project to develop Good Practice Principles for English Language Competence, led by Jeanette Baird, is proceeding on schedule.

Draft Good Practice Principles were sent to universities and other stakeholders for comment in September and a copy of the draft Principles was provided to the Bradley Review of Australian Higher Education.

The next meeting of the Steering Committee, on 13 November, will be followed by a one-day stakeholder Workshop on the Principles on 26 November, after which a report to DEEWR will be finalised.

Visitors to AUQA and Other Meetings

Since the last newsletter, AUQA held discussions with a range of international and local visitors including:

Professor Rajesh Chandra, Vice-Chancellor of the University of the South Pacific; representatives of the Victorian Auditor-General's Office, Dr Leo Goedegebuure of the LH Martin Institute for Higher Education Leadership and Management; and Mr Richard Evered of Hobsons Publishers.

AUQA personnel have made a number of presentations to local and international meetings, as follows:

David Woodhouse presented a workshop and Jeanette Baird and Antony Stella each gave presentations at AIEC 2008 in Brisbane. Drs Baird and Stella also made presentations to the 23rd annual conference of the National Liaison Committee for Overseas Students.

Jeanette Baird presented a joint paper with Professor George Gordon of the University of Strathclyde entitled 'Beyond the Rhetoric: A Framework for Evaluating Improvements to the Student Experience' at the EAIR Annual Forum in Copenhagen.

David Woodhouse and Deryck Schreuder held discussions on standards with members of the Academic Board of The University of Sydney.

Rob Carmichael held a consultation with the members of Government Accreditation Authorities (GAAs) in relation to the second cycle of GAA audits in 2010.

Jeanette Baird gave a presentation to the national meeting of Chairs of Academic Boards and Senates in Cairns.

David Woodhouse attended a LTPF Reference Group Meeting at RMIT.

David Woodhouse gave a presentation to the DVCs (International) meeting in Canberra.

David Woodhouse addressed the Joint Committee on higher Education in Melbourne.

Jeanette Baird attended a roundtable convened by IEAA and the LH Martin Institute to discuss the structure and content of a proposed graduate certificate in international education.

Jeanette Baird represented AUQA at the Melbourne public hearings of the House of Representatives Standing Committee on Industry, Science and Innovation's Inquiry into Research Training and Research Workforce Issues in Australian Universities.

Karen Treloar represented AUQA at the Melbourne public hearings of the Senate Inquiry into Academic Freedom.

Jeanette Baird gave a presentation on auditing transnational education to RMIT internal quality reviewers.

Rudi Lidl visited the People's Republic of China to discuss cooperative arrangements with the Ministry of Education's Higher Education Evaluation Centre (HEEC) in Beijing.

Antony Stella represented AUQA in the second meeting of the 'Steering Committee for the Transnational Education Professional Development' project of IEAA. The project, funded by DEEWR, aims develop training courses, comprised of curriculum resources and a suite of industry focused professional development workshops in transnational education.



Dr Lidl with Professor Ji Ping, Director of HEEC



Concepcion Pijano, Philippines (L) & Jesmin Pervin, Bangladesh

APQN Update

2009 APQN Conference and AGM

Ha Long City, Vietnam

4-6 March 2009

The main theme for the next APQN conference is:

'Quality Assurance in Higher Education: Balancing the National Contexts and International Aspirations'

The first day of the APQN annual conference will be a symposium for APQN members only. The subsequent 2 days will be an open conference for local and international participants. For more information on themes, sub-themes, and the call for contributions document, visit www.apqn.org/events/.

Internships

Two additional participants in the APQN internship program to PAASCU (the Philippines) sponsored under the GIQAC grant departed from their home countries at the end of September for two weeks onsite training in the Philippines. The participants

were Ms Jesmin Pervin from the University Grants Commission of Bangladesh, and Mr Huu Cuong Nguyen from General Department of Education, Testing and Accreditation in Vietnam.

APQN Virtual Library

Visit the APQN Virtual Library to read the following recently uploaded documents:

- As a World Bank DGF requirement, APQN underwent an external evaluation of its three years of funding. The Board then prepared an action plan based on the recommendations put forward in the external evaluation report. Both documents, 'External Evaluation of APQN' and the 'Action Plan for the External Evaluation of APQN' are available at www.apqn.org/virtual_library/reports.
- APQN is currently developing a Members Only website. The development of this website was assisted by the generous assistance given by APQN members who completed the recently distributed online survey. The results of the 'Website Survey Report' are available at www.apqn.org/virtual_library/surveys.
- The Survey report for the recently conducted online workshop on 'Internal Quality Assurance' is available at www.apqn.org/virtual_library/surveys. Feedback from participants was positive and many suggestions for future topics were raised by members. As a result, APQN is currently planning its next moderated online forum on 'Writing Accreditation/Evaluation/Audit Reports'. More information will be available soon.