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AUQA News

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Welcome



Audit Update

2009 Audits

Audit reports for the following audits have become available since the last newsletter:

- Tabor College (NSW)
- The University of Western Australia
- The University of Queensland
- RMIT University (joint AUQA/VRQA audit)
- Macquarie University
- NMIT (Higher Education)

Other 2009 audits are proceeding on schedule.

Audit Progress Reports

The first three Progress Reports from Cycle 2 SAI audits, for the University of Newcastle, Southern Cross University and Swinburne University of Technology, have been received by AUQA.

Information on audit schedules, Audit Reports and Progress Reports is available from the AUQA website at:

www.auqa.edu.au/qualityaudit/index.php

AUQA in the media

In addition to coverage of AUQA audit reports, AUQA has featured in various media articles, including:

Many avenues for info to choose right foreign varsity, Straits Times (Singapore), 4 May 2009

Practising good principles, (Judy Nagy), Campus Review, 11 May 2009

New quality and standards watchdog, (David Woodhouse), University World News, 31 May 2009

Alternatives to vanilla degrees and classroom teaching, (John Mitchell), Campus Review, 1 June 2009

Quality improves, (Rachel Lebihan), Australian Financial Review, 15 June 2009

Better quality control likely, (Guy Healy), The Australian Higher Education Supplement, 5 July 2009

Qualifications soon to apply to all universities, (Gavin Moodie), The Australian Higher Education Supplement, 8 July 2009

Outrage over uni changes, Newcastle Herald, 9 July 2009

CQU beyond the crossroads, (Julie Hare), Campus Review, 21 July 2009

A class act, (Julie Hare), Campus Review, 3 August 2009

The standards fare, (Robin McTaggart), Campus Review, 3 August 2009

Standards do not mean standardization: AUQA, (Julie Hare), Campus Review, 10 August 2009

Learning from Australia's Export Education Model, World Education News and Reviews, July/August 2009, vol.22, issue 6.

News of AUQA Auditors

Professor Larissa Behrendt, Research Director of Jumbunna Indigenous House of Learning at UTS, has been named NAIDOC Indigenous Person of the Year.

Professor Philip Clarke, formerly Pro Vice-Chancellor (International) at Deakin University, has been appointed as the new Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic) at Deakin.

Professor Margaret Jackson of the Graduate School of Business at RMIT has been awarded a grant of \$209,000 from the Australian Learning and Teaching Council for a project titled 'Graduate Professional Entry Courses in Accounting and Law'. The other partners in the project are Professor Rosalind Mason from

QUT and Dr Glenda Scully from Curtin University of Technology.

Professor Kevin McConkey, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic and Global Relations) at the University of Newcastle, has been appointed as chair of the Raffles College of Design and Commerce under a new mentorship relationship between the University and Raffles College.

A book by the **Reverend Dr Charles Sherlock**, *Uncovering Theology: the depth, reach and utility of Australian theological education*, was launched at the conference of the Australia & New Zealand Association of Theological Schools at the

Australian Lutheran College, Adelaide on 7 July. The genesis of the book was the ALTC discipline initiative in theological education. Details of the book are available at www.atfpress.com/atfpress/book.php?ID=112.

AUQA Staff News

Ms Zoe Tsui is AUQA's new Assistant Accountant, following the departure of Tinny Huong. We thank Tinny and wish her all the best in her new venture.

Ms Liesha Northover is assisting Jenny Bastas and Naomi Constantine as a temporary administrative assistant.

AUQA Board News

Two new Directors nominated by the Australian Government are **Ms Fiona Buffinton**, Group Manager, Higher Education Group, DEEWR and **Ms Mary Foley**, National Health Practice Leader, Pricewaterhouse Coopers and Deputy Chancellor of the University of Western Sydney.

Advice of other new Directors for 2009 was provided in the previous newsletter. Remaining Board meeting dates for 2009 are 25 August and 24 November.



Ms Buffinton

Good Practice Database

www.auqa.edu.au/gp

The following institutions have been invited to prepare submissions for the Good Practice Database:

- The University of Queensland
- The University of Western Australia;
- RMIT University
- Avondale College
- Raffles College of Design and Commerce
- Tabor College (NSW)
- Gordon Institute of TAFE

It is expected that these good practices will be published in November.

Advisory Group on Academic Standards in Australian Higher Education

As reported in the last newsletter, a consultation paper from the Advisory Group was issued in May.

Over 50 responses were received. Some were positive about the ideas put forward, some were critical, and some were cautionary. Many offered useful suggestions for ways forward.

The responses were discussed by the Advisory Group at a meeting on 17 July.

The following documents are now available on the AUQA website at: www.auqa.edu.au/qualityenhancement/academicstandards/

- The discussion paper
- A short summary of the responses
- The submissions that respondents said could be public
- An environmental scan commissioned by AUQA.

An expanded Advisory Group will consider what actions might be taken in the light of the feedback received.

Publications

In June, AUQA and the Australian Learning and Teaching Council jointly published *Learning and Teaching in Australian Universities: A thematic analysis of Cycle 1 AUQA audits*, which was prepared by Professor Christine Ewan.

The Proceedings of AUQF2009 are in preparation. As noted, papers from AUQF2009 are available, under the program for each day, at: www.auqa.edu.au/auqf/2009/program/.

A manuscript on the student experience as reflected in AUQA audit reports is being revised for publication. Planning is continuing for a publication on non self-accrediting higher education providers in Australia.

INQAAHE News

Since INQAAHE was founded in 1991, many other networks of quality agencies have been established – most, but not all, regionally based. Thus, most quality agencies are now within the scope of two (or more) quality networks. INQAAHE now convenes biennial meetings of these networks to ensure that we are collaborating to assist our members.

All networks were represented at the UNESCO World Conference on Higher Education and therefore INQAAHE took the opportunity to have one of its biennial network meetings in Paris on 9 July.

Topics covered included how networks can help their member agencies, how networks can be administered and run, and how the performance of networks can be measured.

Several of these networks (including INQAAHE) are currently receiving some World Bank funds, and the Bank wanted to discuss indicators for the effects of the use of these funds. A meeting on 10 July discussed these issues, and networks developed indicators for their activities.

Meetings, presentations and visitors to AUQA

International

By invitation, [Dr David Woodhouse](#) and [Dr Antony Stella](#) attended meetings and then the UNESCO World Conference on Higher Education in Paris in July 2009. [Dr Antony Stella](#) was invited by the International Institute of Educational Planning (UNESCO's training wing) to the Policy Forum on Tertiary Education in Small States held on 2-3 July and was the rapporteur for the session on capacity building in QA at the World Conference.

[Rob Carmichael](#) has given several presentations in Indonesia and Malaysia as follows:

'Auditing of Australian Higher Education Institutions', at the AEI Quality Assurance Seminar held at the Australian Embassy in Jakarta, Indonesia on 29 July 2009. There were 80 senior academics from Indonesian universities in attendance. *'AUQA's Experience in Auditor (Assessor) Professional Development'*, an invited address to the annual meeting of BAN-PT Assessors in Jakarta on 30 July 2009.

'Quality Assurance Collaboration', at the 'Australia-Malaysia Forum on Quality and Excellence in Higher Education' held in Kuala Lumpur on 10-11 August 2009.

[Dr Antony Stella](#) is currently in Timor Leste, helping the Ministry of Education in establishing its national quality assurance body, as part of a consulting project that AUQA has been invited to undertake.

In Australia

[Emeritus Professor Deryck Schreuder](#) and [Dr David Woodhouse](#) attended the University Chancellors' Committee Meeting in Sydney, at the invitation of Emeritus Prof Ingrid Moses, Chancellor of the University of Canberra, on 19 May

[Dr David Woodhouse](#) made a presentation to the Deakin University Academic Board Meeting held at the Geelong Campus on 9 June

[Dr Jeanette Baird](#) made a presentation to the University of South Australia on AUQA audit findings on English language proficiency on 19 June

[Dr Jeanette Baird](#) recorded a video presentation for a series of symposia on the Australian National Graduate Attributes project, which took place in July and August 2009

[Dr Jeanette Baird](#) presented a paper, co-authored with George Gordon of the University of Strathclyde, at the 2009 HERSDA Conference on the student experience, held on Darwin from 6 to 9 July

On 23 and 24 July, [Karen Treloar](#) met with Belinda Emms, the new Manager of the Private Provider section in DEEWR, and subsequently with Adrian McComb of COPHE, and Paul Sheehan, Manager, Quality and Regulation, Higher Education Directorate, NSW DET

[Karen Treloar](#) made a presentation on the role of

AUQA to the Second National Indigenous Students Conference held at Sydney University from 23 to 25 July.

[Dr Jeanette Baird](#) attended the Professions Australia Accreditation Forum held in Canberra on 18 August, to discuss AUQA's standards project and the Good Practice Principles for English Language Proficiency for International Students.

[AUQA auditors can obtain copies of Powerpoint presentations by emailing \[j.baird@auqa.edu.au\]\(mailto:j.baird@auqa.edu.au\)](#)

Visitors to AUQA include:

Ms Dorte Kristoffersen of HKCAAVQ to discuss the Hong Kong approach to accreditation of non-local courses on 27 May

Dr Tatsuro Yoda and Mr Takenori Yamada from Japanese Institute for Future Technology on 29 May

Ms Claire Field, General Manager of NARA on 3 June

Mr Jim Davidson, Managing Director of TVET, on 5 June

Ms Nursamsiah Moenandar, Head, Subdirector of Community Empowerment, Directorate of Institutional Affairs, Directorate General of Higher Education, Indonesia on 13 July

Dr Abdullah Al-Mussallam, Executive Director of the Saudi Arabian Quality Assurance Agency, on 4 August

Professor Rajesh Chandra, Vice-Chancellor of the University of the South Pacific, on 8 August.

Australian Higher Education Quality Award 2009

AUQA wishes to congratulate the 2009 recipient of the Australian Higher Education Quality Award, [Professor James Taylor](#). The announcement of this year's award was made at the AUQF2009 dinner on Thursday 2 July, at Ooraminna Homestead, Alice Springs. The award was accepted by Professor Mark Toleman on Professor Taylor's behalf.

Professor Taylor received the Award for his major role in transforming the character of and regard for external studies in higher education. He has been a relentless champion for excellence in open and distance education, supporting improved quality management and innovation in the theory and practice of this area over a long period, and playing a major role in breaking down the barriers between traditional and flexible approaches in learning and teaching. He has had a national and international impact in improving the reputation and quality of open, distance and flexible education.

The Award was established by the AUQA Board in 2005 to celebrate the achievements of individuals in the area of quality assurance in higher education. The main criterion for the Award is service to quality advancement in Australian higher education. The Award comprises a certificate and a cheque for \$3000. A record of the award and the citation is permanently posted on the AUQA website.

New Memorandum of Cooperation: MQA and AUQA

On 10 August 2009, the Malaysian Qualifications Authority (MQA) and AUQA signed a Memorandum of Cooperation. Both agencies have a long history of mutual cooperation, and by signing the memorandum are formally committing to closer collaboration in the following ways:

- Promoting mutual understanding of each other's Quality systems
- Increasing collaboration in relation to quality assurance of higher education across jurisdictions, for example in relation to the auditing or review of the operations of Australian universities' branch campuses in Malaysia
- The exchange of personnel for increased professional development opportunities, and
- Working towards inclusion of the good practices of Higher Education Institutions accredited by MQA in the AUQA Good Practice Database.



Dato' Dr Syed Ahmad Hussein, Chief Executive Officer of MQA, who signed for MQA and Mr Robert Carmichael, Audit Director, who signed on behalf of the Executive Director of AUQA, Dr David Woodhouse, at the 'Australia Malaysia Forum on Quality and Excellence in Higher Education', held in Kuala Lumpur on 10 August 2009. Witnessing the signing are Australian High Commissioner, H.E. Ms Penny Williams, and Y.B. Dato' Seri Mohamed Khaled Nordin, Minister for Higher Education, Malaysia.



AUQF2009

AUQF2009, on the theme 'Internal & External Quality Assurance: Tensions & Synergies', was held in Alice Springs from 1 to 3 July and was attended by 180 delegates from a broad mix of higher education institutions and other organisations.

The evaluations showed this year's Forum was regarded by delegates as an excellent opportunity for networking and to hear about new developments in the sector through a variety of formats. In particular, favourable feedback was received on the plenary panel sessions and keynote speakers.

Keynote addresses were delivered by:

- Professor Roger Brown, Professor of Higher Education Policy and Co-Director of the Centre for Higher Education Research and Development, Liverpool Hope University: *The Changing Architecture of Quality Assurance*.
- Professor Chris Brink, Vice-Chancellor, Newcastle University (UK): *On Quality and Standards*
- Ms Catherine Vandermark, Branch Manager, DEEWR: *Bradley Review: Implications for Quality Audit*

Other plenary sessions were:

- a panel discussion by Indigenous Australian quality experts: *External Quality Audit: Making a difference to Indigenous participation in higher education?*
- a panel discussion by media commentators: *The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly News*.
- a panel discussion by vice-chancellors: *External Quality Audit: Valuable or not?*

Congratulations to the following recipients of the AUQF Awards:

Best Paper: Associate Professor Katie Dunworth, Curtin University of Technology, *Meeting Internal and External Demands: the Challenge of Developing English Language Proficiency in an Australian University*

Best Paper Presentation: Dr Beverley Oliver, Curtin University of Technology, *External and Internal Indicators of Student and Graduate Satisfaction: Tensions and Synergies*

Best Workshop: Professor Richard James and Dr Kerri-Lee Harris, The University of Melbourne, *Curriculum Diversification and the Implications for Academic Standards*

Photos from AUQF2009 are on the website at: www.auqa.edu.au/auqf/2009/photos/

Papers are available on the website at www.auqa.edu.au/auqf/2009/program/

A pre Forum workshop for NSAs was well attended and encouraged some lively discussions. The other pre Forum Workshop, on External and Internal Impacts of AUQA audit, was also well-received.

AUQA wishes to thank the AUQF2009 Joint Steering Group and Chair, Dr Julie Jackson of La Trobe University, and the Alice Springs Reference Group for the invaluable support they gave in organizing this year's Forum.

The **Australian Quality Forum: Higher Education (AuQF2010)** will be held on the Gold Coast, 30 June – 2 July 2010. Please note the change of name, to reflect that the Forum is for all people interested in quality in Australian higher education.