

ISSUE 29

February 2009  
[www.auqa.edu.au](http://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



Dear AUQA Auditors,

Welcome to the first newsletter for 2009.

As we enter the new year, we remind you to please check the currency of your biographical details on the AUQA website ([www.auqa.edu.au/aboutauqa/auditors/](http://www.auqa.edu.au/aboutauqa/auditors/)) and send updates to Aysen Mustafa ([a.mustafa@auqa.edu.au](mailto:a.mustafa@auqa.edu.au)).

Thank you.

## Audit Update

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

- Australian Catholic University
- University of Adelaide
- University of Notre Dame Australia
- Curtin University of Technology
- University of Canberra

### Other 2008 Audits

Audit reports for the following 2008 audits are in progress:

- Avondale College
- Raffles College of Design and Commerce

### 2009 Audits

The audits of RMIT, the University of Queensland, Macquarie University, the University of Western Australia, Tabor NSW and Gordon Institute of TAFE (higher education programs) are now underway.

### Progress Reports

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

- Flinders University
- Monash University
- Australian Film Television and Radio School
- Australian College of Theology
- Tasmanian Qualifications Authority

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

## In the media

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

Education reform projects on way (Soman baby), [Daily News \(The Voice of Bahrain\)](#), 4 November 2008

Agency 'should protect standing' (Guy Healy), [The Australian Higher Education Supplement](#), 5 November 2008

Alternatives broaden appeal (Guy Healy), [The Australian Higher Education Supplement](#), 12 November 2008

Robust quality, modestly stated, [International Focus \(Universities UK\)](#), issue 28, 12 November 2008, p1

Don't let masters slip down (Gavin Moodie), [The Australian Higher Education Supplement](#), 19 November 2008

Bradley: a short-term political patch-up (Simon Marginson), [University World News](#), 11 January 2009

The Tertiary education paradox (Daniel Scheiwe), [Unleashed \(www.abc.net.au\)](#), 13 January 2009

Call to monitor students' English competence (Bernard Lane), [The Australian Higher Education Supplement](#), 14 January 2009

## Board News

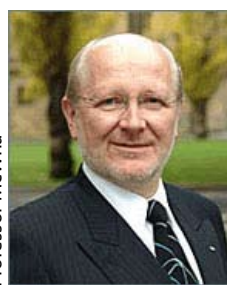
The terms of office of six AUQA directors come to an end on 31 March 2009.

Following a reorganisation in DEEWR, Director [Mr Colin Walters](#) has moved to the International Division and has resigned from the AUQA Board.

Directors [Professor James McWha](#) and [Mr Clive Hildebrand](#) have

served on the Board for two terms and are not eligible for reappointment.

The terms of three



Professor McWha

more directors also end in March, and they are eligible for reappointment.

The process of nomination and appointment through MCEETYA is under way.

AUQA thanks these and the other Directors for the leadership they have provided and are providing in challenging times in Australian higher education,

The first meeting of the AUQA Board for 2009 will be held on 17 February. One item for discussion will be the implications of the Bradley Review of Australian Higher Education.

## AUQA Staff News

Several professional development activities have been undertaken by AUQA staff in December and January, as follows:

- A five-day program of training on AQTF 2007 requirements for the auditing of VET providers, delivered by Box Hill TAFE, 11–17 December 2008
- A half-day 'Futures Workshop' led by Maree Conway of Thinking Futures, 19 January 2009.
- A discussion session on NSAI academic governance facilitated by Professor Barbara van Ernst (Education Consultant and AUQA Auditor), 20 January 2009.

## Workshops

### Preparing for Audit: Non Self-Accrediting Higher Education Providers

Sydney, 20 March 2009

This interactive workshop is designed to assist HEPs intending or required to be audited by AUQA to consider the quality audit requirement, the planning that will need to be undertaken, and challenges that are often encountered.

For information and registration, go to:

[www.auqa.edu.au/qualityenhancement/workshops/preparingforaudit/](http://www.auqa.edu.au/qualityenhancement/workshops/preparingforaudit/)

### 2008 Quality Audit and Auditor Training

The regular annual Auditor Training took place in Melbourne on 17-18 November 2008 and was attended by a record number of 51 participants.

Participants included: newly appointed auditors participating in training as a prerequisite for registration on the AUQA Auditor Register; representatives of non self-accrediting institutions; representatives from Australian universities; members of government accreditation authorities;

and representatives from other organisations in Australia and overseas (Hong Kong and India).

Given the increased demand for this type of training and mindful of the dynamics of large groups, AUQA has decided to offer the 2009 Auditor Training program on two consecutive weeks in November if there is a similar level of demand this year.

### Intensive Workshop for QAC Auditors Hong Kong

On 14 and 15 January 2009 AUQA jointly with the Quality Assurance Council (QAC) of Hong Kong organised an intensive training workshop for auditors in Hong Kong. Rudi Lidl of AUQA and Trevor Webb of QAC conducted the training program at the QAC facilities in Hong Kong.

The program is similar to auditor training offered in Australia and consists of short presentations and extensive role play that simulates the various stages of the audit process of an institution. Participants enjoyed the program and one of the coldest days in Hong Kong as an additional experience.

# Publications

Minor changes and corrections to the AUQA Audit Manual version 5.0 were outlined in a new cover note released in December 2008. The new cover note is available at:

[www.auqa.edu.au/files/auditmanuals/cover\\_note\\_for\\_version\\_5\\_combined\\_final.pdf](http://www.auqa.edu.au/files/auditmanuals/cover_note_for_version_5_combined_final.pdf)

AUQA Audit Manual version 6.0, which will include comprehensive information on the audits of all Government Accreditation Authorities in 2010, is currently being prepared for approval by the AUQA Board at its February meeting. Pending approval, Version 6 is scheduled for public release in March.

The AUQA Occasional Publication 'Self-review for Higher Education Institutions' is available for downloading from the AUQA website at:

[www.auqa.edu.au/qualityenhancement/publications/occasional/publications/](http://www.auqa.edu.au/qualityenhancement/publications/occasional/publications/)

In 2009 AUQA plans to develop a publication on non-self accrediting higher education institutions in Australia. Ideas for topics and contributions are welcome – please email [j.baird@auqa.edu.au](mailto:j.baird@auqa.edu.au)



The Joint Steering Group invites submissions for both paper presentations and workshop sessions. The deadline for submissions is March 13, with more information and detailed guidelines available at [www.auqa.edu.au/auqf/2009/contributions/](http://www.auqa.edu.au/auqf/2009/contributions/).

Early bird registration for AUQF2009 opens March 2 online at [www.auqa.edu.au/auqf/2009/registration/](http://www.auqa.edu.au/auqf/2009/registration/). Day and student registrations are also available.

Professor Chris Brink, Newcastle University (UK) has been confirmed as a keynote speaker on academic standards for both teaching and research. Professor Roger Brown, Liverpool Hope University (UK) will present a keynote on the architecture of quality systems at an international level.

## 2009 Auditor Meeting

The 2009 Auditor Meeting will be held on 1 July 2009 in Alice Springs, prior to the commencement of AUQF. Please contact Claire Gresty at AUQA for information and travel advice at [c.gresty@auqa.edu.au](mailto:c.gresty@auqa.edu.au)

# Advisory Group on Academic Standards in Australian Higher Education

Discussions on academic standards in Australian higher education are gaining momentum. The Advisory Group (AG) established by AUQA with experts and nominations from various higher education stakeholders groups held its second meeting on 5 December 2008. Professor Garry Marchant, DVC & Provost at Bond University, has joined the AG as a nominee of Universities Australia.

A list of other members of the Advisory Group is available at:  
[www.auqa.edu.au/aboutauqa/news/articles/article.php?id=44](http://www.auqa.edu.au/aboutauqa/news/articles/article.php?id=44)

During the December meeting, members considered the developing terminologies related to the standards discussion in a contextual framework. The group is working on an 'Options Paper' which will be the subject of focused discussions with the sector in a few months.

Acknowledging the importance of this discussion, DEEWR has made funding of \$50,000 available to the project. The Advisory Group will use ALTC project groups and similar groups to discuss some of the options such as assessment moderation. ALTC has extended its support to this collaborative approach.

Developments in the health profession will also inform AG's work. Dr Christopher Robertson, Director Policy, National Registration & Accreditation Implementation Project for the Health Professions, joined the meeting by teleconference at AUQA's invitation. He described developments within the health professions. Advisory Group members noted the strong relationship between what the health professions are doing and what the AG is trying to achieve.

Subsequent to the meeting, the report of the Review of Higher Education was published. Recommendation 23 of that report calls for exactly the activity already being carried out by AUQA's Advisory Group. The next meeting of the AG will be a face-to-face meeting on 13 February 2009.

The DEEWR-funded Project to develop Good Practice Principles for English Language Proficiency for International Students in Australian Universities, led by Jeanette Baird, was completed when a report was provided to DEEWR at the end of 2008.

Further information on the outcomes of the project is expected to be available in March 2009.



Photo: Aysen Mustafa

# Meetings, presentations and visitors to AUQA

## International

David Woodhouse participated in a meeting of the Arab Network for Quality Assurance in Higher Education (ANQAHE) in Cairo from 1-4 November (speaking and advising on quality assurance frameworks), and then advised the Israeli Council on Higher Education and institutional quality managers (Jerusalem, 5-6 November) on institutional review and establishing an institutional quality culture.

Mark Hay and Rudi Lidl presented a paper on the Australian QA system at the 3rd European Quality Assurance Forum in Budapest, 20-22 November 2008. The conference was organised by the European Universities Association and attracted a record number of nearly 500 participants from all over Europe and beyond. A highlight of the conference was a plenary session in the Hungarian Parliament.

David Woodhouse attended the 2009 Annual Conference and National Accreditation Forum (International Seminar) of the US Council for Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA) in Washington DC.

Selected higher education providers in Malaysia have been invited by the Malaysian government to apply for self-accrediting status. The invitees include the three Australian universities that have campuses in Malaysia. To recommend on the self-accrediting status, the Malaysian Qualifications

Authority (MQA) will conduct institutional audits by mid this year. A series of auditor training programs is under way and the first program was organised during 30-31 January 2009 in Kuala Lumpur. Antony Stella shared with the auditors AUQA's approach to institutional audits.



Hungarian Parliament building, European Quality Assurance Forum

## In Australia

Among other meetings, AUQA staff and representatives have met recently with the following individuals and groups:

David Woodhouse addressed MCEETYA's Joint Committee on Higher Education on 10 November 2008.

Rob Carmichael attended a roundtable meeting of the Australia-Indonesia Senior Officials Policy Meeting in Canberra on 11 November 2008.

David Woodhouse gave a keynote speech at the AAGE Conference on 19 November 2008.

David Woodhouse was the guest speaker at the Council of Australian Directors of Academic Development (CADAD) 'Key Performance Indicators Workshop' held in Canberra on 24 November 2008.

Antony Stella hosted a visit by Dr Latha Pillai, Vice-Chancellor of the Indira Gandhi National Open University, on 27 November 2008.

Jeanette Baird presented at the CAPA annual conference and general meeting, held on 3 December 2008.

Jeanette Baird presented at the conference 'It's Academic: A National Ombudsman for Australian Universities?' held on 4 and 5 December 2008.

David Woodhouse attended a meeting of The Wellington Exchange, held by DEEWR in collaboration with the LH Martin Institute, in Sydney on 4 December 2008. The Wellington Group is a conversation between senior members of the higher education policy community from the United States; England; Scotland; Ireland; New Zealand; Canada and Australia, meeting approximately every 18 months to discuss current higher education issues and policies.

David Woodhouse hosted a visit by Hari Mohan Gupta, President, International Partnership Development Cell in HE, Jagran Social Welfare Society, Bhopal, India on 19 December 2008.

AUQA Board chair Deryck Schreuder and David Woodhouse visited Canberra in January 2009 to hold discussions with various officials and organisations.

Jeanette Baird, Rob Carmichael and Mark Hay gave a presentation to a visiting delegation from the Japan University Accreditation Association (JUAA) on 28 January 2009.

Rob Carmichael gave a presentation on Cycle 2 audits to senior staff at the Melbourne College of Theology on 3 February 2009.

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

# Asia-Pacific Quality Network

## [www.apqn.org](http://www.apqn.org)

**Information about the forthcoming APQN Conference** in Hanoi, Vietnam, is available at: [www.apqn.org/events/](http://www.apqn.org/events/)

The theme for this year's Conference is 'Quality Assurance in Higher Education: Balancing the National Contexts and International Aspirations'.

### APQN Board

The election results for the APQN Board have been announced. Antony Stella has been elected to the Board for another two-year term.

### ENQA Seminar held in December 2008

The European Association for Quality Assurance in Higher Education (ENQA) held a Bologna process seminar on 'Quality Assurance in Transnational Higher Education: From Words to Action' in London on 1-2 December 2008. The seminar, organised by the UK Quality Assurance Agency (QAA), examined aspects of quality assurance in respect of cross border higher education activities. It took as a central reference point the UNESCO-OECD Guidelines on Quality provision in cross-border higher education, and focused on responsibilities, principles, and practicalities.

Antony Stella represented the Asia-Pacific Quality Network and spoke on regional developments. She also made a presentation

on the similarities among the three sets of guidelines: UNESCO-OECD Guidelines on Quality Provision in Cross-border Higher Education; Guidelines for Good Practices in QA developed by the International Network for Quality Assurance Agencies in Higher Education (INQAAHE); and the European Standards and Guidelines (ESG).

The discussions resulted in the following two major recommendations:

1. A general mapping study of TNE provision being offered within the EHEA should be considered. This kind of a mapping exercise could increase understanding of the different kinds of provision involved, how quality is assured, how TNE relates to national education systems, etc. The study could be undertaken by the E4 group in collaboration with other stakeholders.
2. A sentence should be inserted into the Leuven communiqué of the Bologna Process which states that TNE should be considered as 'education' and as such the same guidelines should apply to all TNE provision as to other educational programmes. Hence, TNE is subject to the same principles of public good and public responsibility that constitute the basis for all higher education.