

ISSUE 33

February 2010
www.auqa.edu.au



AUQA News

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Welcome

AUQA Symposium, 31 March 2010, Melbourne

AUQA is pleased to announce that the international keynote speaker at this Symposium will be Dr Achim Hopbach, President of the Board of the European Network for Quality Assurance (ENQA) and the Managing Director of the German Accreditation Council (GAC) / Akkreditierungsrat (AR).

Other confirmed speakers are:

- Professor Jeanette Hacket
- Ms Julie Hare
- Emeritus Professor Adrian Lee
- Emeritus Professor Deryck Schreuder
- Dr David Woodhouse.

For more information please go to:

www.auqa.edu.au/qualityenhancement/workshops/symposium_10years/

To RSVP please email Mrs Claire Gresty, Events and Travel Manager c.gresty@auqa.edu.au

AUQA Board News

The AUQA Board met on 16 February 2010. Among other matters, the Board discussed planning the transition from AUQA to TEQSA, including formal requirements in respect of AUQA as a company under corporations law.

Remaining meeting dates for 2010 are:

- 18 May
- 10 August
- 16 November.

AUQA Staff News

Congratulations to Ms Naomi Constantine, who gave birth to baby Cooper on February 12th. We wish Naomi and her family all the best.

Ms Jodi Horton has joined AUQA as Administration Assistant, to cover a period of maternity leave for Naomi.

Dr Rudi Lidl finished his term of secondment to AUQA at the end of October, and left the University of Tasmania at the end of 2009. He will do a range of project work for AUQA during 2010.



Audit Update

2009 Audits

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

- University of New England
- La Trobe University
- Charles Sturt University
- Australian Institute of Public Safety
- Blue Mountains International Hotel Management School (NSW) & Australian International Hotel School (ACT)

2010 Audits

The first Portfolios for 2010 auditees have been received. All 2010 audits are proceeding on schedule. AUQA's main audit activities for 2010 will include the audits of government accreditation agencies and a significant number of audits of non self-accrediting institutions.

2011 Audits

At its November 2009 meeting, the AUQA Board held a scheduled 'mid-cycle' discussion of the second cycle of audits of self-accrediting institutions. In December 2009, David Woodhouse wrote to 2011 auditees advising that the Board had agreed that SAI audits in 2011 should place greater emphasis on the National Protocols and their associated Guidelines. However, the thematic approach will also continue, with internationalisation remaining a pre-selected theme where relevant.

Audit Progress Report

Progress reports for the following audits are now available:

- Griffith University.

Information on audit schedules, Audit Reports and Progress Reports is available from the AUQA website at: www.auqa.edu.au/qualityaudit/index.php

Academic Standards and TEQSA Update

David Woodhouse has been invited to be a member of the Steering Group for the Learning and Teaching Academic Standards project, which is funded by the Federal Government and led by the Australian Learning and Teaching Council (ALTC). The Steering Group met on 30 November 2009 and 10 February 2010, while a major Forum on the project was held on 11 February. Further information on the Forum is available from www.altc.edu.au/february2010-learning-and-teaching-academic-standards-focus-of-forum, while further information on the project is available at www.altc.edu.au/standards.

Planning for the establishment of the new Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency (TEQSA) continues. TEQSA, which will be a statutory authority of the Federal Government, will absorb the functions of AUQA with continuity of activities. Further information is expected to be available in the next newsletter.

In the media

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

India, Australia and international education, (Brian Stoddart), [South Asia Masala \(ANU blog\)](#), 6 October 2009

How is postsecondary education better abroad? It has standards, (Gary Mason), [The Globe and Mail](#), Toronto, 25 November 2009

Checks catch 2000 students cheating at Queensland unis, (Margaret Wenham), [Courier Mail](#), 22 November 2009

Why universities welcome theological colleges, (Neil Ormerod), [Eureka Street](#), 18 November 2009

Mass college closure as former CQU partner crashes, (John Ross), [Campus Review](#), 9 November 2009

ALTC discipline scholars to define academic standards, (Julie Hare), [Campus Review](#), 9 November 2009

TEQSA: the two-toothed tiger, (John Ross), [Campus Review](#), 7 December 2009

Educator learns a foreign lesson, (Geoff Winestock), [Australian Financial Review](#), 12 December 2009

Degree factories, (Mark Hay), [The Witness](#) (Pietermaritzburg, South Africa), 23 December 2009

Funding policy revamp a question of balance, (Andrew Norton), [The Australian](#), 20 January 2010

Cover all bases for productivity, (Stephen Matchett), [The Australian](#), 13 January 2010

Quality standards questioned, (Andrew Trounson), [The Australian](#), 13 January 2010

Taking aim at diploma mills, (Doug Lederman), [Inside Higher Education](#), 29 January 2010

AUQA has also featured in academic articles, including:

The contradictory managerialism of university quality assurance, (Ian Reid), [Journal of Education Policy](#), September 2009

Auditors of the managerial university: neo-liberal business advisers or paternal controllers?, (Ian Reid), [Globalisation, Societies and Education](#), September 2009.

Workshops

Workshops for Non Self-Accrediting Institutions, 29 and 30 March 2010

AUQA is running two workshops at the Hotel Windsor in Melbourne at the end of March, just prior to the AUQA Symposium on 31 March.

The two NSAI workshops are:

Good Practice in Governance in Non Self Accrediting Institutions, 29 March

This workshop is for non self-accrediting higher education providers that are interested in good governance and in particular academic governance.

Preparing for Audit: Workshop for Non Self Accrediting Higher Education Providers, 30 March

This workshop is for non self-accrediting higher education providers that have become or are intending to become approved Higher Education Providers (HEPs) under the Commonwealth Higher Education Support Act 2003. Such providers are required to undergo periodic quality audit.

The programs and registration forms are available online at: www.auqa.edu.au/qualityenhancement/workshops/

NSAIntelligence and NSAI resources

AUQA now publishes a bulletin specifically for non self-accrediting higher education institutions in Australia, NSAIntelligence. These bulletins are available at www.auqa.edu.au/aboutauqa/nsaintelligence/.

The December 2009 bulletin contains the Executive Summary of a review of the first 10 NSAI Audit Reports from AUQA undertaken by Professor Hilary Winchester.

Members of NSAI seeking information and resources can now visit a dedicated website within the AUQA website: www.auqa.edu.au/qualityenhancement/nsai/

Publications

An updated AUQA Audit Manual (version 7.0) is now available on the AUQA website at: www.auqa.edu.au/qualityaudit/auditmanuals/. We will not send auditors a hard copy of this version, as we expect to publish a version 7.1 fairly soon, which will include an updated handbook for NSAI audits. A hard copy of version 7.1 will be sent to all auditors.

A new AUQA publication, 'The Tertiary Student Experience: A Review of Approaches based on the First Cycle of AUQA Audits 2002–2007' was released in December 2010. The publication was prepared by Carole Alcock, Joan Cooper and Joyce Kirk, with Kaitlin Oyler.

Work is well advanced for an AUQA publication on non self-accrediting higher education institutions, expected to be available in the second half of the year.

A publication on quality assurance in research training is being planned.

Australian Higher Education Quality Award

Nominations for the fifth annual Australian Higher Education Quality Award are now open.

For all information and nomination forms, visit: www.auqa.edu.au/qualityenhancement/qualityaward/

AuQF2010

The 9th annual forum is to be held on the Gold Coast, 30 June – 2 July 2010, with the theme Quality in Uncertain Times.

The Call for Contributions closes on 31 March 2010 and registration will open on 1 March.

The program and forum developments are regularly updated at: www.auqa.edu.au/auqf/2010/

INQAAHE News

INQAAHE has generated procedures for the support and development of quality agencies in small states, including a handbook of tailored approaches to QA. INQAAHE is also supporting internships for staff of agencies in small states. AUQA has volunteered to take one intern.

INQAAHE ran a special workshop for Professional Accreditation bodies in association with the CHEA conference, Washington DC, 25 January 2010.

Planning of the Forum in Namibia (May 2010) is proceeding slowly. Session leaders have been chosen and simultaneous translation (English/French) has been arranged, with funding from UNESCO and the Francophone universities.

UNESCO/Commonwealth of Learning will run a one-day workshop in association with the Forum. It is hoped that AfriQAN (the African quality network) will also run a half-day activity in association with the Forum.

APQN News

Antony Stella has been elected Vice-President of the Asia-Pacific Quality Network (APQN) from January 2010.

APQN has launched a Database of Consultants, which is available at: www.apqn.org/services/consultantsdb/.

The Database was developed by APQN in cooperation with INQAAHE, with support from the Global Initiative for Quality Assurance Capacity (GIQAC).