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AUQA News

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Welcome



New Quality Assurance and Regulatory Body for Higher Education

The Federal Budget of 12 May 2009 contained many announcements for Australian higher education, including the establishment of a new national quality and standards agency.

In the wake of the Bradley Review Report, AUQA has had discussions with the Federal Government over the nature and form of future arrangements for the Australian quality system for higher education, and over how AUQA will transition to be part of a new agency with broader responsibilities, while ensuring continuity of the quality assurance processes. The Federal Government has now announced its intention to create a Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency (TEQSA), stating that 'arrangements for establishing the TEQSA will commence this year and the agency will be fully operational from 2012'. This will fit with the end of AUQA's second audit cycle for universities and authorities and the start of a third cycle under revised arrangements.

At its meeting of 21 May, the AUQA Board approved the following statement, which has been issued to the media:

AUQA welcomes the announcement of the formation of the Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency (TEQSA) and the intent to have a more coherent and unified external quality system for higher education. AUQA looks forward to working with the Federal and other governments, and the higher education institutions, to develop and implement the new system, building on the achievements and reputation of AUQA that have been established over the last ten years.

Audit Update

2008/09 Audits

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

- Avondale College
- Raffles College of Design and Commerce
- Gordon Institute of TAFE (Higher Education)

2009 Audits

All 2009 audits are proceeding on schedule.

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

<http://www.auqa.edu.au/qualityaudit/index.php>

In the media

In addition to coverage of AUQA audit report findings and the Budget news, AUQA has featured in several media articles including:

AUQA and its critic exchange blows over review (Jeremy Gilling), *Campus Review*, 3 February 2009

Language of ability (John Wood & Maria Fiocco), *Campus Review*, 23 February 2009

Concentrating on research (Vin Massaro), *Campus Review*, 2 March 2009

The path to standards (David Woodhouse), *Campus Review*, 23 March 2009

Far behind in quality control (Gavin Moodie), *The Australian Higher Education Supplement*, 15 April 2009

Emeritus Professor Susan Holland

The Australian Higher Education sector is poorer for the passing of Emeritus Professor Susan Holland in March 2009.

AUQA has extended its condolences to her family.

Susan was a wonderful colleague and AUQA benefited from her expertise in many ways.



AUQA Board News

Terms of office of six Board members ended on 31 March 2009. Nominations by relevant constituencies and subsequent appointment by the members have been confirmed for four vacancies.

In the place of Professor James McWha (Vice-Chancellor of



Professor Hackett

University of Adelaide), Universities Australia and the other self accrediting institutions nominated Professor Jeanette Hackett (Vice-Chancellor, Curtin University of Technology), to the AUQA Board, to serve until 31 March 2012. Professor Ian O'Connor (Vice-Chancellor and President, Griffith University) was re-nominated for a further three year term.

In the place of Mr Clive Hildebrand, the States and Territories nominated Ms Gael Fraser (Director, Office of the Training and Skills Commission, Department of Further Education, Employment, Science & Technology, South Australia) to serve until 31 March 2012. Mr Ian Hawke (Assistant Director-General (Strategic Policy and Performance), Department of Education, Training and the Arts, Queensland) was re-nominated for a further three year term.

AUQA thanks the outgoing directors for their valuable contributions and welcomes the incoming directors. The AUQA AGM 2009 was held by teleconference on 23 April 2009.

At 21 May meeting, the AUQA Board considered the report of a review of 2008 AUQA audits of universities commissioned by the Board. The consultant's report finds that the 2008 audit reports are adequately consistent in tone, that the auditees identify few errors in the definitive draft of the audit report, and that the auditees' comments on the definitive draft are adequately and appropriately dealt with. Some recommendations for further improving the consistency of audit reports have been provided and auditors will be advised of relevant changes.

The Board also agreed to invite the National President of the Council of Australian Postgraduate Associations (CAPA) as an observer to its future meetings. The next two Board meetings will be held on 25 August and 24 November.



Publications

Version 6.0 of the AUQA Audit Manual was released in March 2009. It is available at: <http://www.auqa.edu.au/qualityaudit/auditmanuals/>. Among the changes are a new section on government accreditation authorities and the addition of an index. Amended text for the exit meeting for an Audit Visit was provided in April 2009 and is included in the revised cover letter for Version 6.0.

The statement from the 2008 DEEWR-funded project led by AUQA on Good Practice Principles for English Language Proficiency for International Students in Australian Universities is now available from the DEEWR and AUQA websites at:

<http://www.deewr.gov.au/HigherEducation/Publications/Pages/Publications.aspx>
<http://www.auqa.edu.au/qualityenhancement/publications/other/>

Also available on the AUQA website is a brief document 'Putting the A into Quality', which discusses the relationship between audit, assessment and accreditation, and the distinction between quality assurance and augmentation. This is available at: <http://www.auqa.edu.au/qualityenhancement/publications/other/>

An analysis and commentary on teaching and learning, drawn from AUQA's Cycle 1 audit reports and prepared by Christine Ewan and ALTC, will be available shortly on the AUQA website.

Advisory Group on Academic Standards in Australian Higher Education

The fifth meeting of the Advisory Group on 'Setting and Monitoring Standards in Australian Higher Education' was held on 6 May 2009. The Group endorsed a consultation paper that outlines an approach to demonstrating standards in Australian higher education.

The paper has now been made public for comment. A copy has been sent to all AUQA Auditors. Major stakeholder groups have also been invited to comment on the approach outlined in the consultation paper.

For further information, contact Dr Antony Stella at a.stella@auqa.edu.au. The due date for comment is 6 July 2009.

Workshops

Preparing for Audit: Non Self-Accrediting Higher Education Providers

On Friday 20 March, Ms Karen Treloar and Dr David Woodhouse led a seminar for non self-accrediting higher education providers on 'Preparing for Audit' in Sydney. Speakers included Honorary Auditors, members of government accreditation authorities, and Executive Officers from ACPET and COPHE.

The workshop was attended by 35 people, who indicated they found the workshop an excellent networking opportunity and found it valuable hearing AUQA Auditors talk about their experiences of the audit process.

Future AUQA Workshops and Events

As part of the Australian International Education Conference in Sydney, a workshop on 'Auditing International Activities' will be facilitated by AUQA, with a particular focus on transnational education. The workshop will be held on the afternoon of 13 October and is open to AUQA honorary auditors and to representatives from universities, non self-accrediting institutions and authorities with an interest in international education. Further information is available at <http://www.aiec.idp.com/program/workshops.aspx>.

The annual [Quality Audit and Auditor Training](#) for new AUQA auditors and fee-paying participants will be held in Melbourne on 9 and 10 November 2009. Further information will be available from the AUQA website.

Meetings, presentations and visitors to AUQA

International

Dr Mark Hay chaired the panel for an audit of Delmon University in Bahrain in February 2009 for the Quality Assurance Agency of the Kingdom of Bahrain.

Dr Antony Stella chaired an audit panel for the Mauritius College of the Air in April 2009. She also facilitated a workshop for the Mauritius higher education sector on developing the Cycle 2 audit approach. Mauritius is likely to follow a thematic approach similar to AUQA in its future audits.

Dr Stella attended the INQAAHE conference in Abu Dhabi. She also made a presentation at the APQN 2009 Annual Conference in Hanoi, Vietnam, on 4–6 March.

Dr David Woodhouse conducted a consultancy for the Israel QA Agency in Tel Aviv, Israel on 2 March.

In Australia

[AUQA staff and representatives have visited and/or spoken to individuals and groups, as follows:](#)

Dr David Woodhouse attended by invitation the Bologna Ministerial Advisory Group meeting held at Macquarie University, Sydney, on 19 March, in his capacity as INQAAHE President

Dr Antony Stella gave a presentation on Internationalisation in the contextual awareness seminar

on 'Internationalisation and Curriculum' organised by UniSA in Adelaide on 26 March.

Dr Mark Hay gave a presentation on the INQAAHE graduate qualification in QA at the LH Martin Institute in Melbourne on 1 April

Dr Jeanette Baird made a presentation to a meeting of the Council of Deans and Directors of Graduate Schools in Melbourne on 1 May.

Dr Antony Stella gave a presentation to a meeting of Deputy and Pro Vice-Chancellors (Academic) in Canberra on 14 May.

Rob Carmichael made a presentation to the ACT Accreditation and Registration Council's Higher Education Committee on AUQA's approach to audits of GAAs, and to an ACT Higher Education Provider forum, on 'QA in a New Tertiary World', at ACU in Canberra on 7 May

Emeritus Professor Deryck Schreuder and Dr David Woodhouse made a presentation to the meeting of Chancellors in Sydney on 19 May.

David Woodhouse and Deryck Schreuder have held various meetings with ministerial advisors, DEEWR representatives and Universities Australia to discuss matters arising from the Bradley Review.

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

[Visitors to AUQA since the last newsletter include:](#)

A European Delegation to AUQA, accompanied by Ms Shayne Samuelson (DEEWR), hosted by Dr Mark Hay and Dr Rudi Lidl on 3 March

A delegation from the Institutional Standards Office at the Higher Education Institute in the State of Qatar, hosted by Dr Jeanette Baird on 4 March

Father Palez, Rector of Javeriana University, Colombia, hosted by Dr David Woodhouse on March

Mr Faisal Notta, Visiting Scholar, Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, University of Technology Sydney, hosted by Karen Treloar and other AUQA staff on 16–17 April

Dr Lumkile Lalende, Director of Institutional Audits at the Higher Education Quality Council, South Africa, hosted by Dr Rudi Lidl and AUQA staff on 4–8 May

A delegation from the Ministry of Education & Training, Vietnam, hosted by Dr Mark Hay on 18 May.



AUQF2009

1 -3 July, Alice Springs

Hurry! Early bird registration for AUQF2009 closes 1 June online at <http://www.auqa.edu.au/auqf/2009/registration/>.

The program will shortly be finalised, and includes a plenary presentation from DEEWR on 'Bradley Review: Implications for Quality Audit', and a plenary session on the International Student Experience with Professor Dean Forbes, Flinders University, and Katya Pechenkina, from CAPA. View the up to date program online <http://www.auqa.edu.au/auqf/2009/program/>.

There will be two Pre-Forum Workshops at AUQF, as follows:

[Experiences and Impacts of AUQA Audit \(Joint AUQA/ATEM workshop\)](#)

This workshop is designed to assist practitioners in preparing for the impact of the AUQA audit experience within their institutions. We will share auditee and auditor perspectives on experience and internal impact of the phases of an AUQA audit (self-review/trial; portfolio and interviews; post-audit follow-up).

Facilitators: Dr Jeanette Baird and Jo Miller (Quality Officer, Central Queensland University and ATEM Councillor)

Cost: \$150 per participant

[NSAIs and AUQA Audits: Question and Answer Session](#)

The purpose of this workshop is to share and discuss experiences in preparing for AUQA Audits. The workshop is targeted to NSAI practitioners. It will be an informal question and answer session for those working in NSAIs and who will be involved in forthcoming AUQA audits.

Facilitators: Rob Carmichael and Karen Treloar

Cost: There is no cost for participation in this workshop.

INQAAHE News

Dr David Woodhouse was re-elected for a further two-year term as President of the International Network for Quality Assurance Agencies in HE (INQAAHE) in advance of the 10th Bicentennial Conference of INQAAHE held in Abu Dhabi 30 March – 02 April.

In his closing address, Dr Woodhouse reported that the conference had been the best attended so far in almost 20 years, with close to 400 participants. Papers from the Conference are available from the INQAAHE website at:

<http://www.inqaahe.org/main/conferences-and-fora/inqaahe-2009-conference>.

The INQAAHE Board is in the middle of an ambitious agenda which should begin to bear fruit before the end of 2009. Projects include a graduate qualification in QA, a global Clearinghouse of QA systems, a database of good practices in QA, a global database of available consultants on QA, devising systems of the support of small states in their QA arrangements, and developing support for professional accreditation bodies.

Planning has begun for the 2009 Forum (in Windhoek, Namibia) and 2011 Conference (in Madrid, Spain).

Asia Pacific Quality Network

The Asia Pacific Quality Network Secretariat, which was hosted by AUQA, is now hosted by the Shanghai Education Evaluation Institute (SEEI), Shanghai, PRC.