

Introduction

Welcome to the second issue of NSAIntelligence. This year has been a busy year in terms of AUQA's involvement with NSAs, 12 of which were audited in 2009. Next year promises to be even busier, with 19 audits of NSAs scheduled in 2010. In the past year AUQA has engaged in quality enhancement within the NSA sector and will continue to do so in 2010.

AUQA meetings

DEEWR

In late November 2009, AUQA and DEEWR met to consider the 2010 NSA audit schedule, liaison over NSA matters, and plan future activities. Issues discussed included:

- a greater focus on the use of NSA data in audit reports;
- reviewing and revising the Quality Audit Factors (QAFs);
- the need for the provision of better advice on providers' financial and business capacity to AUQA; and
- the need for further quality enhancement in the sector to support NSAs.

Further discussions will take place throughout 2010.

ACPET and COPHE

In November and December 2009, AUQA met both ACPET and COPHE. At both of these meetings AUQA discussed how best AUQA can work with these organisations, and the role of ACPET and COPHE in providing mentoring and other support services to their members to assist providers in developing capacity in operating in the higher education sector.

Audit update

Concurrent audit process

AUQA is discussing with the Government Accreditation Agencies (GAAs) the possibility of offering NSA HEPs the option of undertaking an AUQA quality audit concurrently with GAA re-registration. Concurrent processes have the potential to enable all parties to use their resources more efficiently, and therefore to save on costs. On the other hand, the necessary special arrangements might prove to be more time-consuming. In any case, all three parties would have to agree to a concurrent approach before it could proceed. AUQA is currently reviewing the results of the four concurrent quality audits/re-registrations undertaken in 2009 with a view to devising a consistent and streamlined process in 2010.

Schedule changes

AUQA is occasionally approached by NSAs to see if it is possible to change the date scheduled for audit. Once scheduling has been confirmed, any consequent change in audit dates requires approval from the Private Provider Unit within DEEWR, and is also dependent on AUQA's ability to reschedule. If any provider finds themselves in the position of needing to change their audit date, they should approach DEEWR first, with a copy to AUQA to alert us of the possible changes.

Audit schedule 2010

Auditee	Audit dates 2010
Tabor Victoria	Portfolio due 29 January Audit Visit 18–19 March
National Institute of Dramatic Arts (NIDA)	Portfolio due 5 February Audit Visit 22–23 March
Curtin International College (CIC) (Perth)	Portfolio due 1 February Audit Visit 19–20 April
Perth Institute of Business and Technology Pty Ltd	Portfolio due 1 February Audit Visit 22–23 April
Marcus Oldham College	Portfolio due 1 March Audit Visit 27 May
South Australian Institute of Business & Technology Pty Ltd	Portfolio due 15 April Audit Visit 1–4 June
Eynesbury Institute of Business and Technology (Adelaide)	Portfolio due 15 April Audit Visit 1–4 June
East Coast Gestalt	Portfolio due 19 March Audit Visit 7–8 June
Southern School of Natural Therapies	Portfolio due 14 May Audit Visit 28–29 June
Endeavour College	Portfolio due 28 April Audit Visit 28–29 June
Oceania Polytechnic	Portfolio due 5 July Audit Visit 25–26 August
Australian Lutheran College	Portfolio due 30 July Audit Visit 20–21 September
Carnegie Mellon University (CMU)	Portfolio due 16 July Audit Visit 27–28 September
Tabor Adelaide	Portfolio due 1 September Audit Visit 14–15 October
Harvest Bible College	Portfolio due 8 August Audit Visit 18–19 October
Holmes Colleges	Portfolio due 6 September Audit Visit 14–? November
Sydney Institute of Business and Technology (SIBT)	Audit Visit December
Queensland Institute of Business and Technology (QIBT)	Audit Visit December

Provisional audit schedule 2011

Auditee	Audit dates 2011
Melbourne Institute of Business and Technology (MIBT)	Audit Visit January
Australian College of Physical Education	February
Campion College	April
Wollongong College / ITC	April
International College Management Sydney	May
SAE Investments	June
Tabor Tasmania	June
Jansen Newman	July
Perth Bible College	July
Holmesglen Institute of TAFE	August
Australian College of Theology	September (Cycle 2)
Nature Care College	September
JMC Academy	September
Adelaide College of Divinity	October
Australian Guild of Music Education	November
Dixon Elliott / Macleay	November
Stotts College	November

Performance portfolios

AUQA encourages providers to make their portfolios available on their websites.

Events

NSAI event

AUQA has scheduled an NSAI Forum for early 2010. The two-day Forum will take place on 29–30 March in Melbourne. Day 1 will focus on Academic Governance in NSAs, and Day 2 will be tailored for NSAs who are preparing for audit. Further details on this event will be provided early in the New Year.

Auditor training

AUQA recently held its two-day Auditor training and was pleased with the strong attendance from members of NSAs.

AuQF

The Australian Quality Forum (AuQF) is the main national annual event for the discussion of quality assurance and quality enhancement in the Australian higher education sector. The Forum's aim is to stimulate debate about quality assurance within the sector and to share good practice.

AuQF2010, the 9th annual forum, will be held at Sofitel Gold Coast Broadbeach, 30 June – 2 July 2010. The forum theme is 'Quality in Uncertain Times'. The program is intended to reflect the evolving Australian higher education quality assurance landscape. The program will address issues of particular relevance to universities, those operating in non self accrediting institutes, and students. For further details, go to <http://www.auqa.edu.au/auqf/2010/>. AUQA encourages those working in NSAs to attend the Forum, and also encourages those interested to submit a paper for publication.

Publications

Executive Summary of Review of the First Ten NSAI Audit Reports

AUQA recently completed a review and analysis of the first ten NSAI Audit Reports, including an evaluation of the commendations, affirmations and recommendations (CARs) against the Quality Audit Factors (QAFs). This review was carried out for AUQA by Professor Hilary Winchester, and will inform the further development of audit procedures and any revision of the QAFs. A full Executive Summary of this report (*Executive Summary of A Review of the First Ten NSAI Audit Reports*) is available from <http://www.auqa.edu.au/qualityenhancement/publications/other/>. The second ten reports are to be reviewed in early 2010 and a further consolidated report produced.

Audit reports

Two audit reports of NSAs have been published since Issue 1 of the NSAIntelligence was distributed in September 2009:

- Insearch Limited
- Think: Colleges Pty Ltd

To read a copy of these reports, go to <http://www.auqa.edu.au/qualityaudit/nsai/>.

AUQA occasional publications (AOPs)

AUQA plans to produce an Occasional Publication (AOP) on the non self-accrediting sector in Australia in 2010, and is keen to hear from those working in NSAs who would be interested in developing a chapter for publication. If you are interested, please contact Jeanette Baird at AUQA, by phone on +61 3 9664 1042, or by email at jeanette.baird@auqa.edu.au.

Good Practice Database (GPDB)

The AUQA Good Practice Database (GPDB) is a searchable collection of good practices in higher education, that have been identified during AUQA audits of institutions and agencies, and that are potentially transferable to be of benefit to others. At the GPDB website, you will be able to:

- access detailed summaries of each Good Practice;
- contact the owners of each Good Practice for further information;
- participate in the related discussion boards; and
- rate the usefulness of each Good Practice.

For more information on the AUQA GPDB, go to <http://www.auqa.edu.au/gp/>.

In conclusion

Finally, I encourage all NSAs to make use of the resources available on the AUQA website, and in particular the Good Practice Database (GPDB) which provides examples of good practice in quality assurance of higher education.

I wish everyone the very best for the festive season and look forward to a great year next year.

Yours sincerely



Dr David Woodhouse
Executive Director