



Newsletter Issue 01

March 2008

Message from the Deputy Prime Minister



Welcome to the first issue of *Higher Education 2020*.

This newsletter, in conjunction with the Department's website, will provide up to date information on developments in higher education. In this newsletter you will find articles regarding progress on the implementation of our election commitments, details of consultations and information about the Government's policies and programs.

I am pleased that we have made good progress in working through the implementation issues for our election commitments. Some are already underway. We've sought applications from universities for new nursing and education places. In addition to this we have also removed the Higher Education Workplace Relations Requirements and the National Governance Protocols as a condition of funding.

Over the last decade, the increasing need for knowledge, skills and innovation has continued to transform our economy and our nation – in ways that make education, particularly higher education, more important to our national productivity and wellbeing than ever before.

As we move towards 2020 and beyond, we need to ensure that the steps that we take now ensure that our universities and other higher education institutions can reach their full potential and improve their individual and collective standing as internationally recognised public institutions for contemporary times.

To this end, I have announced a major Review that will inform the preparation of the Government's policy agenda for higher education through 2009 and 2010 and beyond. This Review will be an opportunity to ask fundamental questions such as what goals should be set for Australian higher education and what should the Government put in place to support those goals.

There will be extensive opportunities for consultation. I look forward to an open and frank dialogue with you over the coming months as we continue to work collaboratively to implement election commitments and as the Review gets underway.

Julia Gillard
Minister for Education

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Review of Australian Higher Education

On 13 March 2008, the Deputy Prime Minister and the Minister for Education, the Hon Julia Gillard MP, announced a Review of the Australian higher education sector.

This Review will be the first major review of higher education to be undertaken since 2002. The purpose of the Review is to examine and report on the future direction of the higher education sector, its fitness for purpose in meeting the needs of the Australian community and economy, and the options for ongoing reform. It will inform the preparation of the Government's policy agenda for the decade ahead.

The Review will be led by a Higher Education Review Expert Panel, chaired by **Emeritus Professor Denise Bradley AC**, National President of the Australian College of Educators and former Vice-Chancellor and President of the University of South Australia.

Other members of the Review Expert Panel will be:

- **Mr Peter Noonan**, Director of Peter Noonan Consulting;
- **Dr Helen Nugent AO**, Director of Macquarie Bank and Chair of Funds SA; and
- **Mr Bill Scales AO**, current Chancellor of Swinburne University of Technology and Chairman of the Port of Melbourne Corporation.

The **Review Terms of Reference** state that the Review Panel will advise the Government on possible objectives for higher education in Australia, starting with the themes below, and how these could be achieved through reform of the sector and changes to regulation and funding arrangements:

- Diverse, high performing institutions with a global focus;
- Productivity and participation;
- Effective and efficient investment;
- Underpinning social inclusion through access and opportunity;
- Enhanced quality and high standards;
- A broad tertiary education and training sector; and
- Policy linkages.

The Review Panel will provide its report on priority action by the end of October 2008, and final report by the end of the year. The Review Panel will also decide in consultation with the Minister on the best way to disseminate review outcomes.

The Review Panel will consult with key stakeholders and invite submissions from the sector and community. Papers and other relevant information will be made publicly available on the [Review website](http://www.dest.gov.au/HEreview) at www.dest.gov.au/HEreview.

A copy of the Minister's speech announcing the Review is available via the [Media Centre](#). The speech, titled [A Higher Education Revolution Creating a Productive Prosperous Modern Australia](#), was delivered at the Australian Financial Review's Higher Education Conference on Thursday 13 March 2008.

Contact information

For further information or any enquiries relating to the Review, please contact the Higher Education Review team.

By email:

HEreview@deewr.gov.au

By mail:

Higher Education Review

Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations (DEEWR)

Location 031

GPO Box 9880

CANBERRA ACT 2601

Inside Higher Education

Higher Education 2020 aims to keep you informed about the Government's higher education policies and programs. The newsletter will be published on a bimonthly basis.

Any Feedback, Comments or Questions?

We welcome your feedback on this issue. Send any comments or suggestions to the Higher Education Group via highered@deewr.gov.au.





Jim Davidson, Deputy Secretary DEEWR

The Higher Education Group welcomes Jim Davidson as our Deputy Secretary with responsibility for overseeing the post-secondary education and training sector.

Mr Davidson was appointed Deputy Secretary of the Department in April 2005.

He is responsible for overseeing the two Vocational Education and Training Groups (National Training Directions Group and Industry Skills Development Group), the Higher Education Group and the Information Services Group.

The Higher Education Group contributes to the development and maintenance of a strong, diverse higher education system. The Group administers programs that support the teaching and learning activities of higher education institutions and provide loans to students, reports on the state and performance of the higher education system, and provides policy advice on the future direction of higher education.

The Vocational Education and Training Groups include responsibility for activities under the Skilling Australia's Workforce Act, Australian Apprenticeships, Australian Technical Colleges and the ongoing development of the national training system.

The Information Services Group manages the delivery of information and communications technology services to the education and training areas of the Department. This spans infrastructure, business applications development and support, telephony and information management.

Prior to joining the Department in 2005, Mr Davidson was the Deputy Secretary for the Office of Training and Tertiary Education with the Department of Education and Training in Victoria. Mr Davidson has more than 30 years experience in the public sector with the Australian, Victorian and South Australian Governments. He has a Bachelor of Arts (Hons), a Masters Degree in Social Administration and a Graduate Diploma in Applied Science (Social Statistics).



New Australian Government Ministry

A new Government led by the Leader of the Australian Labor Party, the Hon Kevin Rudd MP, was sworn in by the Governor-General on 3 December 2007.

The Hon Julia Gillard MP was appointed Deputy Prime Minister, Minister for Education, Minister for Employment and Workplace Relations, and Minister for Social Inclusion. A complete list of the Australian Government ministry is available at www.pmc.gov.au/parliamentary/index.cfm.

The Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Education has a website and media centre located at www.mediacentre.dewr.gov.au/mediacentre/Gillard. Further information on Ministers and Parliamentary Secretaries with responsibilities across the education, workplace relations and social inclusion portfolio is available at www.dest.gov.au/portfolio_department/ministers_websites.

With the Hon Senator Kim Carr's appointment as Minister for Innovation, Industry, Science and Research, matters relating to research, research training and research infrastructure now rest with the Department of Innovation, Industry, Science and Research (DIISR). More information on the research portfolio is available at www.innovation.gov.au.

An Administrative Arrangements Order issued on 25 January 2008 provides for joint administration of the *Higher Education Support Act 2003* (HESA) by the Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations (DEEWR) and DIISR. DEEWR and DIISR will work together to ensure a smooth transition to the joint administration of the HESA, with minimal impact on stakeholders. Both Departments are committed to working together to ensure consistency and harmonisation of policy across the higher education sector.

Another Machinery of Government change of interest to the sector is the incorporation of the Youth Bureau within DEEWR. The Minister for Youth, the Hon Kate Ellis MP, is consulting with the sector on the impact of the previous Government's Voluntary Student Unionism (VSU) policy on student services and amenities, and student representation (www.deewr.gov.au/vsu).



Changes to higher education legislation and guidelines

A number of pieces of legislation were introduced in the House of Representatives earlier this year that impact on the higher education sector.

Higher Education Support Amendment (Removal of the Higher Education Workplace Relations Requirements and National Governance Protocols Requirements and Other Matters) Bill 2008

Removal of the Higher Education Workplace Relations Requirements and National Governance Protocols

The *Higher Education Support Amendment (Removal of the Higher Education Workplace Relations Requirements and National Governance Protocols Requirements and Other Matters) Bill 2008** was introduced into Parliament on Wednesday 13 February 2008. Subject to the Bill's passage, the *Higher Education Support Act 2003* (HESA) will be amended by repealing the Higher Education Workplace Relations Requirements (HEWRRs), which include the requirement for higher education providers to offer Australian Workplace Agreements to their employees. The Bill also removes the National Governance Protocols (NGPs), which impose governance conditions on providers.

These two requirements have been a condition of a provider's Commonwealth Grant Scheme (CGS) funding for student places. Failure to meet the HEWRRs and the NGPs currently results in a reduction of a provider's CGS funding. This Bill will remove that condition.

From 1 January 2008, the funding increases that had been conditional on providers meeting the HEWRRs and the NGPs up to 2007 have been built into the cluster rates that came into effect this year. These cluster rates are set in legislation and indexed annually in line with Part 5-6 of HESA. Therefore, the removal of the HEWRRs and the NGPs will not affect the amount providers receive.

To expedite the removal of the HEWRRs and the NGPs, pending passage of the Bill, the Government has removed Chapter 7 of the CGS Guidelines in HESA. This amendment has been registered on the Federal Register of Legislative Instruments and took effect from 28 February 2008.

While the HEWRRs and the NGPs will be removed as a condition of funding, the Government will encourage universities to pursue good governance practices and increase productivity and efficiency.

Contact: Deborah Mackay (A/g Director, Workplace Productivity Unit) on (02) 6219 3562 or at deborah.mackay@deewr.gov.au.

* The Bill remains before the House of Representatives for consideration as at 17 March 2008.

Technical amendments

The *Higher Education Support Amendment (Removal of the Higher Education Workplace Relations Requirements and National Governance Protocols Requirements and Other Matters) Bill 2008* also makes a range of minor technical amendments designed to improve the operation of various parts of HESA.

a) Changes to the arrangements for quality auditing of universities

The Bill includes changes to the arrangements for quality auditing of universities. Currently, the only quality auditing body in this country is the Australian Universities Quality Agency. This Bill will see additional bodies designated as quality auditors, while setting limits on the higher education providers that those bodies can audit, such as the class of provider and the state or territory where its accreditation lies. This is intended as an efficiency measure to reduce the administrative burden on private higher education providers while retaining robust auditing processes - it is important given the large number of private providers in the higher education sector. The change has been subject to consultation with higher education providers and other key stakeholders and has been generally well received.

b) Changes to the approval of higher education providers

In relation to the approval of higher education providers, the Bill amends the HESA so that the approval of a provider that no longer meets certain criteria may be revoked. For example, if the provider no longer has its central management and control in Australia, this Bill enables its approval to be withdrawn.

Higher Education Support Amendment (VET FEE-HELP Assistance) Bill 2008

The *Higher Education Support Amendment (VET FEE-HELP Assistance) Bill 2008* was introduced into Parliament on Thursday 14 February 2008, and will amend the original VET FEE-HELP legislation to provide sufficient powers for the making of guidelines to ensure that the scheme is implemented as originally intended.

Specifically, the amendments will:

- ensure VET FEE-HELP is restricted to eligible full-fee paying students in VET Diploma, Advanced Diploma, Graduate Certificate and Graduate Diploma courses;
- require credit transfer arrangements with higher education providers for VET Diploma or Advanced Diploma qualifications;
- allow restricted access arrangements to be developed between VET providers and employers or industry bodies, while still allowing eligible students to access VET FEE-HELP assistance; and
- extend other FEE-HELP arrangements.



Workplace Productivity Program

Consistent with Government policy to abolish Australian Workplace Agreements (AWAs), Chapter 2 of the Other Grants Guidelines, made under section 238-10 of HESA, which sets out the objectives of the Workplace Productivity Program (WPP), have been removed. The amendment removing the relevant chapter has been registered on the Federal Register of Legislative Instruments (FRLI) and took effect on 28 February 2008.

The Minister has asked the Department to work collaboratively with universities to amend conditions of grant made under the WPP to remove references to promote AWAs and direct relationships with employers in projects. The Department will ask universities to propose alternative outputs consistent with the Government's agenda to promote efficiency and productivity.

These changes will not result in any university having a reduction in funding.

Contact: Deborah Mackay (A/g Director, Workplace Productivity Unit) on (02) 6219 3562 or at deborah.mackay@deewr.gov.au.

Learning & Teaching Performance Fund & the Carrick Institute

The Government will continue to support learning and teaching in higher education through the Carrick Institute for Learning and Teaching in Higher Education and the Learning and Teaching Performance Fund.

During the election campaign, the Government announced that it would be taking savings of \$10.7 million per year from the Carrick Institute. These savings will now be drawn from the Learning and Teaching Performance Fund. The Carrick Institute will continue to receive around \$27 million per year.

The Minister is currently considering the administrative arrangements for the 2009 round of the Learning and Teaching Performance Fund. The Department will notify universities of these arrangements at the earliest opportunity. \$74.4 million will be available for allocation in 2009.

Over the coming months the Minister will consider how the Carrick Institute and the Learning and Teaching Performance Fund can best help the Government to achieve its longer term objectives for Australian higher education.

Contact: Julie Birmingham (Director, Teaching & Learning Unit) on (02) 6219 3545 or at julie.birmingham@deewr.gov.au.

Higher Education Endowment Fund—draft guidelines and national consultations

The Higher Education Endowment Fund (HEEF) has been established to advance the development of a world-class Australian higher education sector, by providing ongoing support for strategically-focused investments in capital expenditure and research facilities, to encourage a culture of philanthropic investment in Australian higher education institutions.

The HEEF Advisory Board has released a consultation draft of the 2009 HEEF Funding Program Guidelines for public comment. The HEEF Advisory Board will be undertaking national consultations during March and early April to gauge the sector's response to the draft guidelines.

For further information or to access copies of the draft guidelines, please access the HEEF website at www.heef.gov.au.

Contact: Deborah Anton (Director, HEEF Unit) on (02) 6219 3578 or at heef@deewr.gov.au.

Consultations on the impact of Voluntary Student Unionism

The Government believes university student services and amenities, such as counselling, childcare, health services, sports, clubs and societies are an essential part of campus life and is concerned that the current Voluntary Student Unionism (VSU) policy has made it difficult for university students to access these services.

Although the Government has ruled out a return to compulsory student unionism and hefty upfront fees, it will collaborate with universities and other stakeholders to ensure students can access appropriate services and representation.

On behalf of the Government, the Hon Kate Ellis MP, Minister for Youth, has been listening to the views of students, universities and other higher education stakeholders about the impact of VSU at meetings around Australia. Minister Ellis has also called for submissions in response to a discussion paper issued on 17 February 2008. The discussion paper is available at www.deewr.gov.au/vsu. The closing date for submissions was 11 March 2008.

Contact: Deborah Mackay (A/g Director, Workplace Productivity Unit) on (02) 6219 3562 or at deborah.mackay@deewr.gov.au.



Inside Higher Education

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A Fairer Go for Students: Expansion of Commonwealth Scholarships

Work is well underway to help more students from low socio-economic backgrounds attend university through the expansion of the Commonwealth Scholarship program.

As part of the *Scholarships for a Competitive Future* initiative – an election commitment of the Australian Government – the number of Commonwealth Scholarships will be increased to 88,000 in 2012. This program growth includes two new Commonwealth Scholarships to be introduced from 2009:

- **National Priority Scholarships** for students who enrol in priority areas, including nursing, teaching, medicine, dentistry, allied health, science, engineering and mathematics; and
- **National Accommodation Scholarships** for students who have to relocate interstate to study specialist courses not available in their home state.

The current Commonwealth Scholarship program guidelines will need to be amended to include provision for the new scholarships. The Department will shortly circulate a discussion paper to higher education providers, peak bodies, and state and territory education bodies, to seek their views on issues around the implementation of the new scholarships. Comment will be sought on a number of key issues including identifying priority areas and specialist courses, and considering options for allocating the scholarships to providers.

Once feedback has been received, the Department will revise the Commonwealth Scholarship Guidelines to enable students to apply for the new scholarships in 2009.

Contact: Bruce Jennings (Director, Equity Unit) on (02) 6219 3561 or at bruce.jennings@deewr.gov.au.

New Student Income Support arrangements

Student income support payments (Youth Allowance, Austudy and ABSTUDY) provide support to students and their families to help meet the costs of education, thereby facilitating participation in education and effective transitions into sustainable employment. In 2006-07, \$1.9 billion was provided to 350,000 students in receipt of income support payments.

A number of measures have been introduced recently to provide further assistance to students and their families. These measures all took effect from 1 January 2008.

Youth Allowance and Austudy have been extended to students enrolled in approved masters by coursework programs, which are required for entry to a profession, are the fastest pathway to professional entry, or where a university has diversified by restructuring its course delivery.

This change is in response to a growing trend to increase the qualifications required for professional entry. It ensures that low income students have the financial assistance they require to complete a Masters degree to obtain entry to a profession.

Eligible students aged 25 years and over in receipt of Austudy may now be able to receive Rent Assistance to help with housing costs associated with full-time study and training. This is of particular support to those students who need to relocate to pursue their studies. The measure brought Austudy recipients into line with other income support recipients, such as those receiving Youth Allowance and Newstart Allowance payments.

Changes to workforce independence criteria, in line with Youth Allowance workforce independence criteria, now benefit ABSTUDY students who have supported themselves through paid work for a specified period since leaving school.

The extension of Crisis and Bereavement payments to ABSTUDY recipients also assists in keeping students engaged in education. Making the ABSTUDY Incidentals Allowance available to all students undertaking an enabling course at a higher education institution encourages younger students to undertake preparatory studies and go on to further study.

Contact: Anna Reibelt (Assistant Director, Student Allowances Policy Section) on (02) 6240 7931 or at anna.reibelt@deewr.gov.au.



Research Projects

Factors influencing Year 12 choice of university and subject

The Department is funding a study to investigate the factors influencing students' choices regarding participation in higher education and preferences related to university and field of study.

Previous research has established that there are a number of factors influencing students' choices. Important factors influencing decisions about study include interest and competence in the field of study, career prospects, along with perceptions of salaries, working conditions and job satisfaction. Other research has found that economic, social and cultural factors have the potential to influence decisions related to entering university.

This current research project, which is funded through the Department's Research Program, seeks to obtain up-to-date information on the relative importance of factors influencing Year 12 students. This includes those Year 12 students who are not intending to apply for university as well as prospective university applicants. Of particular interest are high achieving students who choose not to attend university, as well as students from low socio-economic backgrounds and those from rural and remote areas.

A number of tenders to undertake the study have been received, and results of the study are expected by the end of the year.

Contact: Elizabeth Martin (Assistant Director, Analysis Unit) on (02) 6219 3503 or at elizabeth.martin@deewr.gov.au.

Early school intervention to attract disadvantaged students into higher education

Recent research suggests that early school intervention to attract disadvantaged students into higher education may hold the key to improving the higher education participation rate of disadvantaged students, particularly students from low socio-economic status backgrounds. To gain a better understanding of how such intervention strategies may work in the Australian context, the Department proposes to commission research on the nature, extent, and effectiveness of intervention in schools prior to Year 11. Details of the Request for Tender for this research will soon be available on the AusTender website at www.tenders.gov.au and advertised in the national press.

Contact: Bruce Jennings (Director, Equity Unit) on (02) 6219 3561 or at bruce.jennings@deewr.gov.au.

National data collection on applications and offers for undergraduate university places

The Department is working with the higher education sector to develop a national data collection on applications and offers for undergraduate university places. The new collection will be the first ever national database on demand for higher education courses. It will offer a more comprehensive and more detailed understanding of patterns of demand for (and supply of) higher education in Australia.

Because of the size and complexity of the task, the Department has adopted a staged approach to setting up the national data collection. Stakeholders have indicated that this is a good way to proceed, and will reduce the burden on higher education providers.

The first stage of the project is a national unit record dataset of applications and offers processed through the state Tertiary Admissions Centres (TACs). A working group of technical experts from all TACs has now met three times and developed detailed specifications for the dataset. The collection of TAC data will be piloted in May 2008, with an annual collection planned for publication from 2009 onwards.

A working group of technical experts from a representative group of universities has convened more recently to begin working on specifications for a data collection of applications and offers processed directly by universities. This will be a more difficult task, due to the greater variety of administrative and reporting practices across universities. A pilot collection is planned for 2009, with an annual data collection for publication from 2010 or 2011.

Contact: Mike Teece (Assistant Director, Analysis Unit) on (02) 6219 3510 or at mike.teece@deewr.gov.au.

Study of employment outcomes five years after graduation from university

The Department has gone out to tender for a study on employment outcomes for bachelor graduates five years after graduation. The study will also look at the pathways students take to reach those employment outcomes and the factors that influence outcomes, including the influence of school experiences and careers advice.

This research will be used to inform policy development and to better understand graduate supply issues. The project is being funded under the Department's Research Program. Results of the study are expected by the end of the year.

Contact: Anne McConnell (Assistant Director, Analysis Unit) on (02) 6219 3505 or at anne.mcconnell@deewr.gov.au.



Higher Education Group Contact Details

The Higher Education Group is located on levels 2, 3 and 4 of Novell House, 71 Northbourne Avenue, Canberra ACT 2601. The general DEEWR switchboard number is **(02) 6240 8111**.

Name and Branch	Areas of responsibility	Contact details
<p>MR COLIN WALTERS Group Manager Higher Education Group</p>	<p>The Higher Education Group contributes to the development and maintenance of a strong, diverse higher education system that contributes to Australia's social and economic need for a highly educated population and skilled labour force.</p> <p>The Group administers programs that support teaching and learning activities, infrastructure, and philanthropy within higher education institutions. It reports on the state and performance of the higher education system, and provides policy advice on the future direction of higher education.</p>	<p>Ph: 02 6219 3564 Email: colin.walters@deewr.gov.au</p> <p>Postal address: Location 031 GPO Box 9880 CANBERRA ACT 2601</p>
<p>DR CAROLINE PERKINS Branch Manager Equity and Structural Reform Branch</p>	<p>Equity and Structural Reform Branch develops policy and delivers programs to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • improve equity of access for identified target groups through the Higher Education Equity Support Program, the Disability Support Program and the Commonwealth Learning Scholarships; • encourage universities to manage their workplace relations in keeping with the Australian Government's workplace relations policies through the Higher Education Workplace Relations Requirements, and strengthen their ability to manage workplace change through the Workplace Productivity Program; and • improve collaboration between universities, other institutions, business and the community through the Business Industry Higher Education Collaboration Council and the Diversity and Structural Adjustment Fund. <p>The Branch also manages the development and implementation of the Voluntary Student Unionism Transition Fund, and provides Secretariat support to the Business Industry Higher Education Collaboration Council.</p>	<p>Ph: 02 6219 3560 Email: caroline.perkins@deewr.gov.au</p> <p>Postal address: Location 033 GPO Box 9880 CANBERRA ACT 2601</p>
<p>MR ROD MANN Branch Manager Funding and Student Support Branch</p>	<p>Funding and Student Support Branch provides strategic advice on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the financial sustainability and governance of higher education providers (including financial reporting); • the allocation of and funding for non-research student places; • student contributions and fees for higher education courses; and • the assistance available to students to pay their student contributions and tuition fees. <p>It administers the Commonwealth Grant Scheme (including Funding Agreements), National Institutes Program, Higher Education Superannuation Program, Higher Education Special Projects Program, the Higher Education Loan Program (HECS-HELP, FEE-HELP and OS-HELP) and a program to support universities to encourage small businesses to provide services on regional campuses.</p>	<p>Ph: 02 6219 3548 Email: rod.manns@deewr.gov.au</p> <p>Postal address: Location 021 GPO Box 9880 CANBERRA ACT 2601</p>



Higher Education Group Contact Details (cont'd)

Name and Branch	Areas of responsibility	Contact details
<p>MS JULIE RANDALL Branch Manager Infrastructure and Endowment Branch</p>	<p>Infrastructure and Endowment Branch is responsible for managing the Higher Education Endowment Fund (HEEF) - a \$6 billion perpetual fund allocated to increase capacity in higher education institutions through strategic and innovative infrastructure projects.</p> <p>The Branch:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • provides strategic leadership in matters related to the delivery of policy advice on higher education infrastructure; and • liaises with the Department of Innovation, Industry, Science and Research on research matters as they impact higher education. 	<p>Ph: 02 6219 3575 Email: julie.randall@deewr.gov.au</p> <p>Postal address: Location 040 GPO Box 9880 CANBERRA ACT 2601</p>
<p>MR JASON COUTTS Branch Manager Policy and Analysis Branch</p>	<p>Policy and Analysis Branch is responsible for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • coordinating a range of cross-group and cross-sectoral policy and parliamentary services; • managing legislative services and the preparation of the Higher Education Annual Report; • the analysis and dissemination of higher education data; • research and analysis on higher education; and • the implementation of compact funding arrangements and the accountability framework for higher education (the Institutional Assessment Framework). 	<p>Ph: 02 6219 3569 Email: jason.coutts@deewr.gov.au</p> <p>Postal address: Location 032 GPO Box 9880 CANBERRA ACT 2601</p>
<p>MS LOIS SPARKES Branch Manager Quality Branch</p>	<p>Quality Branch develops policy in relation to higher education. In particular, it works to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • promote quality outcomes through the Australian Higher Education Quality Assurance Framework; • promote and support excellence in teaching and learning through funding the Carrick Institute for Learning and Teaching in Higher Education, and Carrick Awards for University Teaching; • strengthen the application of the National Protocols for Higher Education Approval Processes; and • improve the recognition of qualifications and the transfer of credits for students moving between vocational education and training and higher education institutions. <p>The Branch manages the development and implementation of the Learning and Teaching Performance Fund. It manages legislation, policy and communication in relation to private higher education providers.</p> <p>The Branch also provides Secretariat support to the Joint Committee on Higher Education, and policy input on higher education matters to bodies such as the Ministerial Council for Employment, Education, Training and Youth Affairs; the Australian Qualifications Framework Advisory Board and the Australian Universities Quality Agency Board.</p>	<p>Ph: 02 6219 3555 Email: lois.sparkes@deewr.gov.au</p> <p>Postal address: Location 022 GPO Box 9880 CANBERRA ACT 2601</p>
<p>MS ANNE BALY Secretary Higher Education Review</p>	<p>The Higher Education Review Secretariat provides support to the Higher Education Review Expert Panel, which is undertaking a major Review of Australia's higher education system across 2008.</p>	<p>Ph: 02 6219 3566 Email: anne.baly@deewr.gov.au</p> <p>Postal address: Location 031 GPO Box 9880 CANBERRA ACT 2601</p>