



Newsletter Issue 04

September 2008

2008 Indigenous Higher Education Advisory Council (IHEAC) Elders Awards

On 14 August the Indigenous Higher Education Advisory Council (IHEAC) held a Stakeholders' Forum at the Crowne Plaza in Canberra. The Forum was extremely productive and over 80 delegates from 31 universities around Australia attended. It allowed IHEAC to garner on-the-ground stakeholder views to feed into their supplementary submission to the Review of Australian Higher Education.

The Forum dinner was equally successful. In addition to Council members and Forum delegates, the dinner was attended by senior DEEWR officials including Deputy Secretary Wendy Jarvie and Higher Education Group Manager Colin Walters, as well as guest of honour Professor Richard Larkins AO, Chair of Universities Australia and Vice-Chancellor of Monash University.

The Forum dinner provided an excellent opportunity for those in attendance to celebrate the many achievements of Indigenous Australians in the higher education sector, including a number of individuals who have made an exceptional personal contribution. Awards presented were Indigenous Staff Scholarships, the University Indigenous Education Partnerships Award, the Neville Bonner Memorial Scholarship and, of particular significance to the Council, the Elders Awards.

The Elders Awards are an integral part of the Council's recognition of individuals who have actively participated in Indigenous higher education over a sustained period. The Council recognises that awards should be made to an Indigenous person regarded as an Elder by their community who has made an outstanding contribution to the higher education of Indigenous people over a significant period of time.



L-R: Elders Award recipients Lewis O'Brien, Delsi Lillyst, Roger Thomas (Chair, IHEAC), Isaac Brown, Joy Wandin-Murphy, Noel Nannup

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2008 IHEAC Awards (cont'd)

2008 recipients of Elders Awards are:

- *Isaac Brown* (Northern Territory)
 - presented by Professor MaryAnn Bin-Sallik
- *Lewis O'Brien* (South Australia)
 - presented by Professor Roger Thomas
- *Noel Nannup* (Western Australia)
 - presented by Mr Graeme Gower
- *Joy Wandin-Murphy* (Victoria)
 - presented by Professor Mark Rose
- *Delsie Lillyst* (Victoria)
 - presented by Professor Mark Rose

Each Award was presented by an IHEAC member from the Elder's home state and followed by moving acceptance speeches and standing ovations.



More information about IHEAC's 2008 Stakeholder Forum, including Awards, can be found on the **IHEAC website**: www.dest.gov.au/sectors/indigenous_education/programmes_funding/programme_categories/support_for_education_providers_staff/indigenous_higher_education_advisory_council.

Review of Australian Higher Education—update

The Review's discussion paper provided an opportunity for stakeholders from all sectors – business, industry, community groups, education and individuals – to comment on the role of higher education and how it can best meet the future needs of the Australian community and the economy.

The discussion paper was released earlier this year on 10 June, which initiated the formal consultation and submission process. National consultations with key stakeholders were held in June and July, and submissions closed on 31 July 2008.

The Panel received around 340 submissions and these are available at www.dest.gov.au/HEreview.

The Review Panel is scheduled to report to Government by the end of the year.

Contact: HEreview@deewr.gov.au

Higher Education Endowment Fund—2009 round

On 14 August 2008, Expressions of Interest closed for the 2009 round of funding for higher education infrastructure investment. 55 Expressions of Interest were received from 39 institutions spanning all the Australian states and territories. The proposals cover an array of disciplinary areas ranging from business, education and creative arts to medical research, engineering and science.

The Advisory Board, led by Mr Philip Clark AM, is pleased with the strong response to the 2009 Funding Round.

"We have received a number of excellent proposals. I'm very impressed with some of the ideas that have been put forward. We now have the difficult but pleasurable task of assessing the proposals. We plan to recommend the short-list to the Ministers later this year. I have no doubt the proposals which are funded under this program will have a major impact on the Australian higher education sector." Mr Clark said.

A summary of all the Expressions of Interest can be found at www.heef.deewr.gov.au.

Contact: Any queries should be directed to heef@deewr.gov.au.



Review of the National Innovation System—report

The Review of the National Innovation System report, **venturousaustralia – building strength in innovation**, was released earlier this month on 9 September, by the Minister for Innovation, Industry, Science and Research, Senator the Hon Kim Carr.

A copy of the report and associated materials, including media releases, are available at: www.innovation.gov.au/innovationreview/Pages/home.aspx.

The Government will consider the findings and recommendations of the report in framing a 10 year White Paper on Innovation.



Learning and Teaching Performance Fund (LTPF)

Earlier this year, Deputy Prime Minister, the Hon Julia Gillard MP, announced that the Learning and Teaching Performance Fund (LTPF) would reward improvement as well as excellence in learning and teaching for undergraduates, providing up to \$74 million to universities in 2009.

In June and July, the Department worked with the LTPF Advisory Group to consider options for measuring improvement, and subsequently sought feedback from universities on the proposed administrative process.

Details about the administrative process for the 2009 LTPF will be available in October. Funding allocations will be announced later in the year.

More information on the LTPF can be found on the Department's website at: www.dest.gov.au/sectors/higher_education/policy_issues_reviews/key_issues/learning_teaching/ltpf/default.htm.

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



Australian Learning and Teaching Council (ALTC)

The Australian Awards for University Teaching will be presented in Canberra on Tuesday 25 November 2008 at Parliament House. There will be individual and team awards for teaching excellence, as well as awards for programs that enhance learning. The evening will also see the presentation of the Prime Minister's Award for Australian University Teacher of the Year.

The ALTC is calling for Expressions of Interest and Full Proposals for the ALTC Competitive Grants Program. These are due on 6 November 2008.

The ALTC is also calling for nominations for ALTC Fellowships for 2009.

For more information about any of these activities, please see the **ALTC website:** www.altc.edu.au/carrick/go/home.

VET FEE-HELP—update

VET FEE-HELP is an income contingent loan scheme for the vocational education and training (VET) sector that is part of the Higher Education Loan Program (HELP). It is an extension of the higher education FEE-HELP arrangements.

VET FEE-HELP assists eligible, full fee paying students to pay for all or part of their VET tuition fees when studying one or more of the following accredited VET courses of study:

- diploma* ;
- advanced diploma* ;
- graduate certificate; and
- graduate diploma.

**With an approved VET credit transfer arrangement to a Bachelor degree with a higher education provider (HEP – a higher education institution approved to offer FEE-HELP to its students).*

Applications for approval as a VET provider to be able to offer VET FEE-HELP assistance under the *Higher Education Support Act 2003* (HESA) opened on 14 July 2008. By mid-September, in excess of 70 registered training organisations (RTOs) had registered on the DEEWR's on-line application system with 22 of those having already submitted complete applications.

VET FEE-HELP to expand in Victoria

The Hon Julia Gillard MP, Minister for Education and the Hon John Brumby MP, Premier of Victoria recently announced that VET FEE-HELP would be expanded in Victoria to allow students taking up government-subsidised places at TAFE institutes and private RTOs to access an income contingent loan. The move is part of a cooperative approach between the Australian and Victorian Governments to reform the VET system in Victoria.

The expansion of VET FEE-HELP in Victoria will take effect from 1 July 2009 and apply to eligible government-subsidised students studying at the diploma and advanced diploma level. RTOs must be approved as VET providers under HESA to be able to offer VET FEE-HELP assistance. Further information regarding VET FEE-HELP and the application process is available at www.dest.gov.au/vet/vetfeehelp. Information regarding changes to the Victorian VET system is available at [http://www.premier.vic.gov.au/newsroom/\\$316-million-training-guarantee-for-victoria.html](http://www.premier.vic.gov.au/newsroom/$316-million-training-guarantee-for-victoria.html).

Contact: VETFEEHELP@deewr.gov.au.



OECD Programme on Institutional Management in Higher Education (IMHE) General Conference

On 8-9 September 2008, the Australian higher education sector contributed to the OECD Programme on Institutional Management in Higher Education (IMHE) General Conference in Paris.

IMHE is part of the work of the OECD Directorate for Education and places a global emphasis on the quality, relevance and impact of higher education, focusing attention on policy reform, innovation, access and regional competitiveness. The IMHE brings together higher education institutions and governments to share best practices on these and other issues through networking, analysis and research.

Australia's representatives on the IMHE are Mr Colin Walters, Professor Janice Reid AM (Vice-Chancellor and President of the University of Western Sydney) and Professor Peter Coaldrake (Vice-Chancellor of Queensland University of Technology).

The theme of the conference was the Quality, Relevance and Impact of Higher Education. IMHE organisers have advised that feedback from the 370 registered participants revealed that the conference was a great success.

Australian speakers and chairs included:

- Reputation and ranking – the impact on institutional strategy and behaviour of international ranking tables:
 - Simon Marginson, Professor of Higher Education, Centre for the Study of Higher Education, The University of Melbourne
 - Andrys Onsmann, Associate Professor, Coordinator of Academic Development Programs, Monash University *League Tables: what chance of promotion or relegation?*
- Assessing learning and employment outcomes:
 - Janice Reid, Vice-Chancellor and President of the University of Western Sydney
- Institutional measures to assess and improve quality:
 - Stuart Campbell, Pro Vice-Chancellor, University of Western Sydney, Assessment reform as a stimulus for quality improvement in university learning and teaching: an Australian case study
 - Denise Chalmers, Professor, The University of Western Australia Teaching and learning quality indicators in Australian universities

- Balancing the needs and expectations of society with the autonomy of institutions:
 - Colin Walters, Group Manager, Higher Education Group, DEEWR
 - Vin Massaro, Professorial Fellow, LH Martin Institute for Higher Education Leadership and Management, University of Melbourne *Cui bono? - The Relevance and Impact of Quality Assurance*
- Value for money and efficiency in higher education:
 - Dr Hamish Coates, Principal Research Fellow, Australian Council for Educational Research *What's the difference? A model for measuring the value added by higher education*
 - Professor Helen M. Garnett, Charles Darwin University Reliable, Repeatable Assessment for Determining Value and Enhancing Efficiency and Effectiveness in Higher Education
- Quality and relevance: some policy responses:
 - Colin Walters, Group Manager, Higher Education Group, DEEWR; *New directions being pursued by Australia in the area of higher education policy*

These presentations are on the IMHE website at: www.oecd.org/edu/imhegeneralconference2008/papers.

A selection of the conference papers will be published in 2009 in the IMHE journal *Higher Education and Policy Management* at the website: www.oecd.org/document/39/0,3343,en_2649_39263238_40259751_1_1_1,00.html.

The following links may interest the sector to read about what is happening internationally:

- A speech by the United Kingdom's Minister for Innovation, Universities and Skills, Rt Hon John Denham MP: www.dius.gov.uk/speeches/denham_uuk_110908.html
- The Scottish *Joint Future Thinking Taskforce on Universities* Review: www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Education/UniversitiesColleges/16640/hetaskforce
- The OECD report, *Tertiary Education for the Knowledge Society* has been released and is available at: www.oecd.org/edu/tertiary/review. The report draws on the *OECD Thematic Review of Tertiary Education* which was a study of tertiary education policy in 24 countries investigating tertiary education policy across its many facets, from governance, funding and quality assurance to equity, research and innovation, academic career, links to the labour market, internationalisation and policy implementation.



Reorganisation of DEEWR

A reorganisation of the Department's structure took effect from 18 August 2008. A cluster of business units under Deputy Secretary Jim Davidson has been created to cover the entire post-secondary or tertiary education sector, international activities and youth affairs.

A new Tertiary Skills and Productivity Group has been created to align with the Government's agenda for a more strategic approach to the tertiary sector as a whole and the need to address issues with respect to participation by under-represented groups in tertiary education.

There were two key changes for the Higher Education Group:

1. *Policy and Analysis Branch* has become **Policy, Compacts and Accountability Branch**; and
2. *Equity and Structural Reform Branch* has left the Group and moved to the Tertiary Skills and Productivity Group under a new name: **Tertiary Participation and Equity Branch**.

DEEWR contact details, including an organisation chart, are available at www.deewr.gov.au/deewr/About.

Publications and Resources

Graduate Careers Australia (GCA) - Report of the 2007 Australian Graduate Survey

GCA has released four reports examining the experience of recent graduates both during and after their study – [Graduate Destinations 2007](#), [Graduate Salaries 2007](#), [Graduate Course Experience 2007](#), and [Postgraduate Destinations 2007](#).

These are available from the

GCA website: www.graduatecareers.com.au.

Higher Education Report 2006

The Higher Education Report 2006 is now available. Please visit the **Higher Education Group's website** at www.dest.gov.au/sectors/higher_education/default2.htm to download a copy. Work on the 2007 Report is underway and it will be made available in the near future.



Any Feedback, Comments or Questions?

We welcome your feedback on the newsletter. Please send any comments or suggestions to the Higher Education Group via highered@deewr.gov.au.

Useful Links

Below are a number of **links** to **useful** information found on the DEEWR website and elsewhere.

Reviews

- Review of Australian Higher Education: www.dest.gov.au/hereview
- Review of the National Innovation System: www.innovation.gov.au/innovationreview

International links

- The [United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation](#) (UNESCO) have established a Portal on Higher Education Institutions that is available online at: www.unesco.org
- The [Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development](#) (OECD): www.oecd.org
The OECD brings together the governments of countries committed to democracy and the market economy from around the world to:
 - support sustainable economic growth; boost employment; raise living standards; maintain financial stability; assist other countries' economic development; and, contribute to growth in world trade.

The OECD also shares expertise and exchanges views with more than 100 countries and economies.

Links for students going to university

- [Going to Uni](#) (for domestic students): www.goingtouni.gov.au
A comprehensive guide on going to Australian universities for current and prospective students and their families.
- [Study in Australia](#) (for international students): www.studyinaustralia.gov.au
Provides advice on study in Australia. Here you will find reliable information about courses, institutions, study and living costs, the application process and visa requirements.

Higher Education Providers

As of 10 September 2008, 70 non self-accrediting institutions (private providers) and one self-accrediting institution has been approved under the *Higher Education Support Act 2003* (HESA) to offer FEE-HELP on behalf of their eligible students.

A list of the providers can be found at www.dest.gov.au/sectors/higher_education/programmes_funding/forms_guidelines/higher_education_providers.htm.



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>MS CATHERINE VANDERMARK Branch Manager Quality Branch</p>	<p>The 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 Australian Learning and Teaching Council and the Awards for Australian University Teaching; • strengthen the application of the National Protocols for Higher Education Approval Processes; • improve the recognition of qualifications and transfer of credits for students moving between vocational education and training and higher education institutions; and • encourage universities to manage their workplace relations in keeping with the Australian Government's workplace relations policies and strengthen their ability to manage workplace change through the Workplace Productivity Program*. <p>The Branch manages the <i>Learning and Teaching Performance Fund</i>; legislation and policy for <i>private higher education providers</i>; provides secretariat support to the <i>Joint Committee on Higher Education</i>; and the department's relationship with the Australian Universities Quality Agency (AUQA). A priority for 2008-09 is introducing the new <i>Education Investment Fund</i>.</p> <p><small>*from October 2008</small></p>	<p>Ph: 02 6219 3555 Email: catherine.vandermark@deewr.gov.au</p> <p>Postal address: Location 022 GPO Box 9880 CANBERRA ACT 2601</p>
<p>MS JULIE RANDALL Branch Manager Infrastructure and Endowment Branch</p>	<p>The Infrastructure and Endowment Branch provides:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • strategic advice on matters relating to the delivery of policy advice on higher education infrastructure; • provides policy advice regarding philanthropy in an education environment; and • liaises with the Department of Innovation, Industry, Science and Research on research matters as they impact higher education. <p>The Branch administers the 2009 Higher Education Endowment Funding Round, the Capital Development Pool Program and the Better Universities Renewal Fund.</p>	<p>Ph: 02 6219 3575 Email: julie.randall@deewr.gov.au</p> <p>Postal address: Location 040 GPO Box 9880 CANBERRA ACT 2601</p>



Higher Education Group Contact Details (cont'd)

Name and Branch	Areas of responsibility	Contact details
<p>MR ROD MANNNS Branch Manager Funding and Student Support Branch</p>	<p>The 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 Postal address: Location 021 GPO Box 9880 CANBERRRA ACT 2601</p>
<p>MR JASON COUTTS Branch Manager Policy, Compacts and Accountability Branch</p>	<p>The Policy, Compacts and Accountability Branch is responsible for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> coordinating cross-group and cross-sectoral policy and parliamentary services; development and implementation of mission-based compacts for universities (in cooperation with DIISR); 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 accountability framework for higher education (the Institutional Assessment Framework). 	<p>Ph: 02 6219 3569 Email: jason.coutts@deewr.gov.au Postal address: Location 032 GPO Box 9880 CANBERRA ACT 2601</p>
<p>MS ANNE BALY Branch Manager Higher Education Review Secretariat</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 Postal address: Location 031 GPO Box 9880 CANBERRA ACT 2601</p>
<p>DR CAROLINE PERKINS Branch Manager Tertiary Participation and Equity Branch, <i>Tertiary Skills and Productivity Group</i></p>	<p>The Tertiary Participation and Equity Branch develops policy and delivers programs to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> improve equity of access for identified groups through the Higher Education Equity Support Program, the Disability Support Program and the Commonwealth Scholarships; improve collaboration between universities, other institutions, business and the community, and encourage structural reform in the higher education sector, including via the Diversity and Structural Adjustment Fund; and encourage the participation of equity groups in vocational education and training. 	<p>Ph: 02 6219 3560 Email: caroline.perkins@deewr.gov.au Postal address: Location 033 GPO Box 9880 Canberra ACT 2601</p>