



news

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AQA

Academic
QualityAgency
For New Zealand Universities



Te Pokapū Kōunga Mātauranga mō ngā Whare Wānanga o Aotearoa

Cycle 5 Academic Audits

The Report of the Cycle 5 academic audit for the Auckland University of Technology was released on 18 April, 2016. The report is available on the AQA website. The University had identified 13 enhancements. The Panel made 11 commendations, 3 affirmations and 6 recommendations.

The site visit for the University of Otago Cycle 5 academic audit took place in Dunedin between the 9th and 12th May. It is anticipated that the report will be released at the end of August. The University of Otago audit Panel (right) is chaired by Emeritus Professor Roger Field. The other members of the Panel are Emeritus Professor Debbie Clayton (Australia), Associate Professor David Crabbe (Victoria University of Wellington), Professor Robyn Longhurst (University of Waikato) and Associate Professor Catherine Moran (University of Canterbury).



The University of Otago Audit Panel
Photo Credit : Debbie Clayton

The academic audit of Lincoln University is underway. The site visit for this audit will be held in the week of 8 August. The Panel members for the Lincoln University audit are Emeritus Professor Dugald Scott (Chair), Professor Jeanette Baird (international panel member), Fiona Coote (Massey University), Associate Professor Pat Cragg (University of Otago) and Professor Ajit Narayanan (AUT). The former AQA Director, Dr. Jan Cameron, is managing this audit and is supported by Heather Dickie.

AQA Support for Quality Conference 2016

This year's Support for Quality Conference will be held on 13 October at Wharewaka on the Wellington waterfront. The emphasis of this year's conference will be on considering the future for academic audit including reflecting on cycle 5, considering trends and directions in external quality assurance and discussing options and models for the future.

As a follow-up to last year's conference, Geoff Scott's FLIPCurric website is now up and running and contains a lot of interesting and useful information. See <http://flipcurric.edu.au/>

AQA | About

The Academic Quality Agency for New Zealand Universities (AQA) was established in 1993 to carry out audits of the processes in universities which underpin academic quality. The mission

of AQA is to contribute to high quality New Zealand university education by engaging as a leader and advocate in the development of universities based on high quality, internationally acceptable,

academic practices, and by providing quality assurance and quality enhancement services which assist universities in facilitating excellent student experience and learning outcomes.

AQA People

This is my first newsletter since taking up the position of Executive Director for AQA. I am pleased to advise that I have now been joined by Zareena Khan as Finance, Communications and Operations Manager. Zareena is originally from Fiji and has a background in financial administration in the hospitality sector as well as work with some education NGOs. Zareena works 0.5 time and will normally be in the office on Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays. I would like to sincerely thank all those who have supported Zareena and I into our roles, particularly the former Director, Dr Jan Cameron, Heather Kirkwood and Kate Kilkenny who has been keeping our financial and business systems running.



Zareena Khan
Finance, Communications & Operations
Manager

Former Director's Retirement

The retirement of AQA Director, Dr Jan Cameron, was marked on 26 February at a small function at the AQA offices. The Chair of the AQA Board, Emeritus Professor Pat Walsh, spoke of Jan's deep knowledge of, and her abiding commitment to, the principles and practice of quality assurance in New Zealand's universities. He also noted her capacity to persuade and to be persuaded by convincing argument. There are a number of highlights of Jan's career, and the Chair noted that she had maintained AQA's high reputation in New Zealand and under her leadership AQA's international reputation, and that of NZ's university quality assurance and enhancement systems, grew hugely. During Jan's term as Director, AQA's work acquired a strong international dimension. Jan has been registered as an auditor and auditor trainer in many countries and AQA is now increasingly invited to undertake audits of overseas universities. In recognition of her outstanding contribution, Jan received the Asia-Pacific Quality Network 'Quality Champion' award in 2014, while in 2013 AQA received the inaugural Asia-Pacific Quality Network award for stakeholder engagement. During 2015, AQA was audited by an independent international panel and received a glowing report which was a fitting testament to Jan's leadership.

A number of others spoke about other aspects of Jan's career with all of the speeches characterised by Jan's knowledge and professionalism, and how generous she was with both. Happily, a number of us still have the opportunity to work with Jan as she rebalances her life between work and other activities and interests.

Dr Jan Cameron's farewell function. Photo Credit: Jackie Bailey, Universities NZ



INQAAHE and APQN, May 2016

The International Network of Quality Assurance Agencies in Higher Education (INQAAHE) biennial forum and Asia Pacific Quality Network (APQN) conference were held in Fiji in May. Both were hosted by the Fiji Higher Education Commission and were well attended with delegates from across the Asia-Pacific Region and further afield. New Zealand was represented by AQA (Sheelagh Matear), UniversitiesNZ (Wendy Robinson) and NZQA (Grant Klinkum).

The INQAAHE Forum marked the 25th anniversary of the organisation. The forum was structured around a couple of keynote speakers and a great deal of discussion around three topics: (1) changing landscapes of higher education and their impacts; (2) consistency (and differences) in national quality assurance systems and; (3) effectiveness of quality assurance. Managing workshop discussion across almost 150 delegates had some challenges, but also provided for a great deal of interaction and discussion with colleagues. The keynote speakers were Dr Sarah Booth from the University of Tasmania, who spoke about how benchmarking and peer review contributed to assuring quality through collaboration, and Professor Maarja Beerkens from Leiden University in the Netherlands who discussed the role and contribution of stakeholders in QA, particularly with respect to increasing globalisation of higher education. Next year is the turn of the INQAAHE conference, which will be held in the Kingdom of Bahrain from 26 February to 2 March, 2017. The conference website can be found at <http://www.qqa.gov.bh/En/Mediacenter/INQAAHE2017Conference/Pages/ForumMessage.aspx>.

2016 was also a significant date for the Asia Pacific Quality Network as this was the 10th anniversary of the Network. There was a wide coverage of topics with two of the most interesting (for me) being the development of 'accreditation cards' to support international student mobility and a thought-provoking presentation from the Vice-Chancellor of Kabul University and Deputy Minister of Academic Affairs for Afghanistan. For both INQAAHE and APQN I was struck by the level of interest in different forms of international education and the challenges that presented for quality assurance. I was also impressed with the level of commitment to developing professional quality assurance capability that was evident across the region. Both conferences provided an opportunity to discuss processes and developments in quality assurance with colleagues from other jurisdictions.



Photo Credit: Wendy Robinson, Universities NZ

Have You Seen This?

- It is good to see that TEQSA and HES are holding a conference in Melbourne in November. I (and others) have missed the Australian Universities Quality Forum (AUQF) as a source of information and networking for this region and am looking forward to the opportunity to engage with Australian colleagues again. Conference and registration information can be found at <https://www.eiseverywhere.com/ehome/qualityforum2016/416730/>
- Still with TEQSA, the Higher Education Standards Framework (HESF) for Australian providers applies from 1 Jan, 2017. The standards are organised into 7 domains: (1) Student participation and attainment, (2) Learning environment, (3) Teaching, (4) Research and research training, (5) Institutional quality assurance, (6) Governance and accountability and (7) Representation, information and information management. There is a great deal of information regarding this on the TEQSA website: <https://www.teqsa.gov.au>
- APQN and the Macao Polytechnic Institute are jointly organising a conference on "The New Frontiers of Teaching and Learning Quality Assurance in Higher Education" to be held in Macao from 22-24 November. Further information including the call for papers is available at <http://www.ipm.edu.mo/heconf2016/>
- The Higher Education Research and Development Society of Australia (HERDSA) conference will be held in Freemantle from 4-7 July, 2016. <http://herdsa2016.org/>
- In the UK, the Higher Education Policy Institute (HEPI) has published the 2016 Student Academic Experience Survey <http://www.hepi.ac.uk/wp-content/uploads/2016/06/Student-Academic-Experience-Survey-2016.pdf>
- The Office of Learning and Teaching (OLT) has published a series of reports available at http://www.olt.gov.au/resource-library?solrsort=is_cck_field_year%20desc including:
 - Watty, K., et al. (2016) "Assessing professional learning through the integration of ePortfolios in Australian Business Education"
 - Sountham, C., Pyman, A. and Sridharan, S. (2016) "Enhancing graduate employability of business school alumni through establishing an Australian case network".
 - Selwyn, N. et al. (2016) "What works and why? Understanding successful technology enabled learning within institutional contexts".
- Closer to home, Ako Aotearoa have appointed Dr Stanley Frielick as its Director to succeed Dr Peter Coolbear who steps down at the end of August. Ako have also launched two new synthesis reports on e-learning and educating health practitioners <https://ako.aotearoa.ac.nz/ako-aotearoa/ako-aotearoa/news/two-new-synthesis-reports-ako-aotearoa-health-and-e-learning>. Their National Tertiary Learning and Teaching Conference will be held in Rotorua from 3-5 October, 2016.



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We welcome feedback on this newsletter and the AQA website, along with news and suggestions for newsletter items.

AQA News is published quarterly (March, June, September and December). To join or be removed from the subscription list, please email comms@aqac.ac.nz or follow the links on our website www.aqac.ac.nz.