

## Cycle 6 Academic Audit Update

Cycle 6 is approaching a cross-over period with the ending of the enhancement phase and moving into the audit phase. Consequently, there are a number of activities and tasks scheduled.

The Enhancement Theme Steering Group met on the 17<sup>th</sup> October and discussed guideline statements arising from the enhancement theme for inclusion in the Cycle 6 Audit Framework, the (then) upcoming second Enhancement Theme Symposium and expectations for final reports from universities. Two guideline statements were recommended to the AQA Board. These were approved by the AQA Board and AQA is now consulting with universities on their inclusion in the Cycle 6 Audit Framework. There is a short report on the Enhancement Theme Symposium in the Quality Enhancement column. Final enhancement theme reports from universities are due on 2 March and the final meeting of the Enhancement Theme Steering Group will be on 12<sup>th</sup> March 2020.

Universities are commencing preparation for self-review activities and AQA is delivering workshops that provide an introduction to Cycle 6, the audit framework and undertaking self-review. These are 3 hour workshops that are hosted by a university and are open to all universities. The AQA Board has approved the appointment of 28 people to the Cycle 6 Register of Auditors and Reviewers. Further applications, particularly from those who can provide Māori perspectives and Pasifika perspectives are still sought. The call for applications and criteria for appointment is available on the AQA website at <https://www.aqa.ac.nz/about-us/auditors>

### Cycle 6 upcoming activities 2020

- 17 Jan. Consultation on guideline statements arising from the enhancement theme in the Cycle 6 audit framework closes.
- 31 Jan. 2<sup>nd</sup> editions of Guides to Cycle 6
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Feb. AQA Workshop: Introduction to Cycle 6 and Self-review at AUT
- 2 Mar. Applications for appointment to the Cycle 6 Register of Auditors and Reviewers due.
- 2 Mar. Final enhancement theme reports from universities.
- 3 Mar. AQA Workshop: Introduction to Cycle 6 and Self-review at the University of Otago
- 12 Mar. Final meeting of the Enhancement Theme Steering Group

### 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.

## Quality Enhancement

The end of October through to the middle of November was a busy period for quality enhancement activities with the Quality Forum, Enhancement Theme Symposium and Student Voice Summit all being held over this period.

### Quality Forum

AQA's Quality Forum for universities was held on 31 October in Wellington. This year we were pleased to welcome two colleagues from the Samoa Qualifications Authority and a colleague from Fire and Emergency New Zealand. The programme covered assessment, academic integrity, student voice, developments in the quality assurance environment and a series of 'quick-fire' discussions on new auditors, appeals and disputes, the future of lectures and quality assurance of on-line and multi-modal programmes.



*Attendees at the 2019 Quality Forum*

### Enhancement Theme Symposium

The second Enhancement Theme Symposium was held on 1 November and attended by about 70 people with around 35 people undertaking roles as speakers, panellists, panel chairs, workshop facilitators and rapporteurs. The day started with members of the Enhancement Theme Steering Group providing an update on the theme from a range of perspectives. This was followed by keynote addresses from Dr Chelsea Grootveld and Dr Cherie Chu-Fuluifaga who provided a 'practitioner's perspective on kaupapa Māori evaluation' and examined 'Pacific evaluation or Pacific valuing'. The remainder of the day was a mix of panel sessions and workshops.

The workshops addressed three questions from a Māori perspective and a Pacific perspective:

1. What principles should guide evaluation of programmes or initiatives to support taurira Māori success and Pasifika learner success?
2. How should evaluations of taurira Māori success and Pasifika learner success be used to effect change?
3. What are the key elements of a plan for appropriate and effective evaluation of programmes or initiatives to support taurira Māori success and Pasifika learner success?

A report from the Symposium will be released next year and a dedicated website is under development. AQA would like to extend its sincere thanks to all those who contributed to the Symposium.



### Student Voice Summit

The fourth Student Voice Summit organised jointly with NZUSA, Te Mana Ākonga and this year Taurira Pasifika and the New Zealand International Students' Association was held on 14<sup>th</sup> November. Over the years the Summit has grown with over 50 people attending this year and the organisation of the Summit being increasingly led by students.

## Student Voice

Contributed by Ali Leota, National Pasifika Liaison, NZUSA

### *‘O le ala I le pule o le tautua’*

The pathway to leadership is through service

In 1999, a cohort of Pasifika student leaders from several universities across Aotearoa New Zealand began *talanoa* on mobilising a national voice for Pasifika students. Fast forward to 2019, we were finally able to launch Taura Pasifika - *the voice of Pasifika students in tertiary education* - welcoming an executive team to lead Pasifika student voice in 2020 and beyond.

(Right: Pasifika student leaders at the 2019 Pasifika Students Fono at University of Otago)



Looking back at how far Pasifika student voice has come and what future it holds, it has been a blessing and a real privilege to establish Taura Pasifika at a time where our voices are needed now, more than ever. With a combination of a growing Pasifika population and changing tertiary education environment, Pasifika student voice has entered new, but essential leadership across universities. In particular, all three university student associations in the Auckland region - Albany Students' Association (ASA), Auckland University Students' Association (AUSA) and AUT Students' Association (AUTSA) - have each elected a Pasifika student as their President for 2020, a remarkable milestone.



L-R: ASA President - Dallin Niuelua (Samoa), AUTSA President – Sisifa Lui (Tonga) & AUSA President George Barton (Samoa)

Pasifika student voice is clear in the makeup of the Enhancement Theme for the Cycle 6 Academic Audit embracing the 'Students as Partners' model. With this, the Enhancement Theme has given an opportunity for Pasifika students to collaboratively work alongside senior leaders across universities to help shape initiatives to enhance access, outcomes and opportunities for Pasifika learners. More importantly, it has been a real catalyst to help get Taura Pasifika off the ground and allow us to connect with NZUSA, Te Mana Ākonga and NZISA through the recent Enhancement Theme Symposium and Student Voice Summit.

After a lot of love and passion poured into the establishment of Taura Pasifika, none of this could have been possible without the support of Pasifika students from across Aotearoa. 2019 has been very successful in mobilising the Pasifika student voice, strengthening relationships and ensuring the Pasifika student voice is heard. We have planted the seed, now we look to grow our Pasifika student voice in tertiary education.

### External Review of AQA

AQA undergoes an external review every five years. Terms of reference for the 2020 review have been approved by the New Zealand Vice-Chancellors. AQA's self-review is due on 1 April 2020.

## Have You Seen This?

Enhancement Theme in Scotland have developed a webinar series on uses of different types of data in different contexts. See

<https://www.enhancementthemes.ac.uk/current-enhancement-theme/optimising-existing-evidence/webinar-series>

The review of the Australian Qualifications Framework has been completed and recommendations accepted by the Australian Government

<https://www.education.gov.au/australian-qualifications-framework-review-0>. It is a substantial, well-researched and well-argued report that clearly sets out the role of a national qualifications framework.

The Australian National Centre for Student Equity in Higher Education has released a review of its research outcomes 2017/18. See

<https://www.ncsehe.edu.au/publications/informing-policy-and-practice-iv/>

### Vale Dr Norman Kingsbury

AQA acknowledges with sadness the death of Dr Norman Kingsbury. Among his many significant roles and contributions, Dr Kingsbury was the inaugural Chair of AQA, then the New Zealand Universities Academic Audit Unit (NZUAAU) from 1994-1999. He oversaw the development of the NZUAAU, its model of external academic quality assurance, the first cycle of academic audits for the universities and the development of the second cycle. Our condolences to his family, friends and colleagues.

### Meetings and Conference Calendar

4 February 2020 in Auckland (The University of Auckland)  
Academic Integrity Workshop  
[www.aqa.ac.nz](http://www.aqa.ac.nz)

5 February 202 in Christchurch (University of Canterbury)  
Academic Integrity Workshop  
[www.aqa.ac.nz](http://www.aqa.ac.nz)

23 – 25 March 2020 in Moscow  
INQAAHE Forum: Quality, Competencies, and Learning Outcomes: How to Be Fit for Generation Z Employability  
<http://inqaah2020moscow.ru/>

16 -1 9 April 2020 in Singapore  
Asia-Pacific Quality Network Academic Conference Quality Assurance for Higher Education 4.0 in the Asia-Pacific Region  
<https://www.apqn.org/>

3 – 4 June 2020 in Glasgow  
International Enhancement Conference: Beyond Measure? Exploring what counts in higher education  
<https://www.enhancementthemes.ac.uk/news-events/conference>

11 – 12 June 2020 in Melbourne  
Higher Education Quality Network (HEQN) Conference and Learning Leaders Conference  
For more information contact Jacqui Elson-Green at [jacqui@hes.edu.au](mailto:jacqui@hes.edu.au) or 0417 086 691.



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

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