

## Cycle 6 Academic Audit

The first audit report in Cycle 6 was released in November 2022. The Panel for the academic audit of Waipapa Taumata Rau, University of Auckland made twelve commendations, ten affirmations and fourteen recommendations. The pattern of commendations, affirmations and recommendations reflects the strategic work underway at the University, including a substantial Curriculum Framework Transformation Programme (CFTP) and associated refresh of the University's Graduate Profile to align with the University's new vision and strategic plan. The report and a 'plain english' summary of findings are available on the [AQA website](#).

The audit report for Te Herenga Waka | Victoria University of Wellington will be released next year.

AQA will seek feedback from universities and panel members on their experiences with the audit phase of Cycle 6. Feedback from the first two universities in the cycle will contribute to an initial review of the cycle. This will be completed in the first quarter of next year.

Three universities are scheduled to be audited in 2023. The site visit for Massey University | Te Kunenga Ki Pūrehuroa is scheduled for the week of 6 March 2023. The first planning meeting for the University of Canterbury was held on 12 December, with the University due to submit its self-review portfolio the week commencing 20th March 2023. Engagement with the University of Waikato has also commenced, with that University due to submit its self-review portfolio the week of 15 May 2023.

### Auditor Training

A second round of auditor training was held in October and a third round will be scheduled for February 2023. Any auditors who have completed modules 1 (An introduction to Te Tiriti o Waitangi) and 2 (Cycle 6 academic audit) and would like to participate in module 3 (Te Tiriti o Waitangi and academic audit) on Tuesday 7 February 2023 should contact Sheelagh. A module 2 session will also be held towards the end of February and will be advertised to members of the Cycle 6 Register of Auditors and Reviewers.

### Self-Review Preparation Workshops

AQA ran some self-review preparation workshops prior to the COVID-19 pandemic starting to impact on university activities and the Cycle 6 timeline. An online course on preparing for self-review is also available. A further workshop will be held in Dunedin on Thursday 9 February 2023. Please contact Sheelagh for further information.

#### 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

It has been good to be able to return to face-to-face meetings for first the Student Voice Summit in November and then a Quality Forum in December 2022.

The Student Voice Summit helps prepare incoming members of students' associations executives for their roles in the year ahead. It covers the policy context for the sector and the roles of various agencies. A key feature of the Summit is students learning from students. Thanks to Massey University Te Kunenga Ki Pūrehuroa for their support of the Summit.

Quality managers from across NZ universities were able to meet for the first in-person Quality Forum since 2019. The Forum discussed a range of quality matters including the Code of Practice and its intersection with the Cycle 6 academic audit framework, experiences of the audit phase of Cycle 6 to date, and academic integrity and the growing threats (and some possible opportunities) from artificial intelligence. The Group heard from the Universities New Zealand (UNZ) Portfolio Manager for Academic Programmes who provided an update on CUAP, the

Programme Director for Evidence and Evaluation, also from UNZ, about the development of sector-level data dashboards and the Director Planning and Management Information from Te Herenga Waka about developments within the Tertiary sector, including funding.

Over the course of the day, the Forum also discussed the changing quality landscape including how the three quality bodies for the university sector needed to ensure their expectations were aligned so as not to duplicate requirements for universities. This could be a good topic for future discussion of quality assurance, along with what a Tiriti o Waitangi led approach to quality assurance would look like and the role of data.

### AQA Annual Report

The 2021-2022 AQA Annual Report is now on the [AQA website](#). It contains a report from the Chair of the Board on his first year as Chair and the AQA financial statements and statement of performance. This year, AQA was audited as part of the financial audit of the New Zealand Vice-Chancellors' Committee and a note on the financial statements reflects this. This change in practice is part of achieving administrative efficiencies following the 2020 external review of AQA.



*The 2022 Student Voice Summit was held kanohi ki te kanohi.*



*Attendees of the 2022 Quality Forum*

### Student Leaders for 2023

AQA congratulates Board members Rosa Hibbert-Schooner and Ellen Dixon on their elections as Tumuaki of Te Mana Ākonga and President of NZUSA, respectively. Vikram Selvaraj and Sean (Jin Xiong) Teow are the new President and Education Office for the New Zealand International Students' Association. We would also like to take the opportunity to thank the outgoing NZUSA President, Andrew Lessells, for his commitment to and support of academic quality across the sector.

## Student Voice: Te Mana Ākonga

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*Contributed by Rosa Hibbert-Schooner, Tumuaki, Te Mana Ākonga*

E rere kau ana ngā mihi ki a koutou. He uri tēnei nō Te Arawa, nō Ngāti Whakaau.  
I tipu ake au ki Ōtautahi.  
Ko Rosa Hibbert-Schooner tōku ingoa!  
Ko au te tumuaki o Te Mana Ākonga ā tērā tau.

The mission, vision, values and objectives for Tē Mana Ākonga are:

**Mission** - To be a trusted advocate for ākonga Māori in the tertiary education system, guided by the values of Te Mana Ākonga and Te Tiriti o Waitangi as the foundation.

**Vision** - A decolonised tertiary education system where ākonga Māori, whānau, hapū, and iwi aspirations are reflected and realised.

**Values**

- Rangatiratanga - we promote Māori solutions to matters relevant to the ākonga Māori experience
- Mana whakapapa - we draw strength and courage from our past to define our place in society
- Hiranga - we pursue excellence in all areas of our work
- Tauutuutu - our relationships and partnerships are collective, reciprocal, and mutually beneficial
- Mana Ākonga - our utmost priority are Ākonga Māori
- Aroha - our passions are kaupapa Māori driven
- Kanorau - we are champions of diversity and inclusion.

### Objectives

- to advocate for the needs, interests, and aspirations of ākonga Māori to thrive in education as their authentic Māori selves
- to support local Māori student associations and their leadership
- to hold institutions accountable in giving meaningful effect to Te Tiriti o Waitangi
- to assist student support services and ensure such services are relevant to ākonga Māori needs
- to enhance the experiences of ākonga Māori in tertiary education
- to maintain institutions' obligations to ākonga Māori in relation but not limited to, recruitment, retention, and completion
- to ensure ākonga Māori are valued members of an academic community that values te reo, tikanga, and mātauranga Māori as world-class knowledge systems
- to promote anti-racism and the decolonisation of the tertiary education system

The National Executive of Te Mana Ākonga is voted in by all Roopu at Te Huinga Taura (Our Annual General Meeting). For 2023 myself and Ngawahine Thompson will be taking the lead. The duty of the National Executive involves advocating and supporting Taura Māori on a local and national level. Te Mana Ākonga is currently made up of eleven **roopū**, from ten universities and one polytechnic, representing 30,000+ taura Māori.

Highlights and achievements of this year's tari whakahaere include:

- successfully made constitutional amendments
- internal process mending and reviewing
- held 4 Hui kaiārahi across the country in collaboration with the national membership
- attended many governmental boards and hui to use student voice
- attended Kaapuia, a national Māori student Kapa Haka competition hosted by one of our membership
- held Te Huinga ki Tua alongside TKT for tumuaki across the motu. Voted in a new Tari Whakahaere successfully.

## Have You Seen This?

This column highlights recent reports and developments relevant to quality assurance.

INQAAHE have launched a set of International Standards and Guidelines (ISG) to replace the Guidelines of Good Practice. A recording of the launch of the ISGs is available on INQAAHE's YouTube [channel](#) and more information, including upcoming webinars, can be found on the INQAAHE [website](#).

The Australian Minister for Education has launched a wide-ranging review of the higher education system (the [Universities Accord](#)) to be led by Professor Mary O'Kane AO. An interim report on priority actions is expected in June with the final report to be delivered in December 2023.

Recordings from last month's TEQSA conference and accompanying seminars are now available on the TEQSA YouTube [channel](#). The Safeguarding student wellbeing sessions and Professor Braden Hill's plenary session on '[How do we craft a fairer future](#)' are particularly worth watching.

[Proceedings](#) of the ASCILITE conference in Sydney at the start of this month are on the ASCILITE website.

The National Centre for Student Equity in Higher Education have released a [series of reports](#) on access, best practice and community approaches for students from low SES backgrounds.

Enhancement Themes in Scotland have published a series of resources from the [Anti-Racist Curriculum Project](#).

### Meetings and Conference Calendar

#### 22-23 February 2023

Canberra and online

Universities Australia **Conference**

#### 10-12 March 2023

Indianapolis, USA

International Centre for Academic Integrity **Conference**

#### 5-8 June 2023

Astana, Kazakhstan

**INQAAHE Conference 2023**, Roadmap to Enabling Quality in Tertiary Education 2030

#### 14-14 June

Scotland

Enhancement Themes **Conference**

Shaping the Student Experience Together: 20 Years of Enhancement

**Registration planned to open in March 2023**

#### 3-5 July 2023

Brisbane

Students Transitions Achievement Retention & Success (STARS) **Conference** in conjunction with Australasian Mental Health and Higher Education Collaboration (AMHHEC)

**Submissions close 6 March 2023**

#### 12-14 July

Derby, England

9th European **Conference** on Ethics and Integrity in Academia (ECEIA)

#### Ngā mihi o te tau hou

*AQA would like to wish everyone who has worked with us this year a peaceful and healthy break. We look forward to working with you again in 2023.*



**AQA** | Academic  
Quality Agency  
For New Zealand Universities

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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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