



news

September 2017



Te Pokapū Kōunga Mātauranga mō ngā Whare Wānanga o Aotearoa

Academic Audit

AQA is currently in a 'roll-over' phase between completing activities and reviews from Cycle 5 and getting underway with Cycle 6.

In Cycle 5, the AQA Board accepted the one-year follow-up report for AUT at its July meeting and the remaining follow-up visits for the University of Otago and Lincoln University have been scheduled. AQA is also developing a series of review and analysis reports from Cycle 5. Three reports are anticipated – a review of Cycle 5 processes, a thematic analysis of Cycle 5 reports, particularly commendations, affirmations and recommendations and an impact assessment which will be based on follow-up reports. The first two reports are scheduled to be completed by the end of the year and the third early in 2018.

In terms of Cycle 6, the Quality Managers met in Wellington on 21 August to discuss the 'refresh' of the Cycle 5 Audit Framework for use in Cycle 6 and develop a first draft of a Cycle 6 Audit Framework. The focus at this point has been on ensuring the coverage of the framework is appropriate and further work will refine the wording and expectations around provision of evidence.

Another component of Cycle 6 which is underway is the development of students, or recent graduates, as members of audit panels. A Student Voice in Universities Summit, to be held jointly with NZUSA the day before Support for Quality, will contribute to this.

The indicative university schedule for Cycle 6 Academic is:

Sequence	University	Cycle 5 Report	Midcycle report	Cycle 6 Report
1	Auckland	Oct 2014	Oct 2018	Oct 2021
2	Victoria	Nov 2014	Nov 2018	Nov 2021
3	Massey	Feb 2014	June 2018	June 2022
4	Canterbury	Feb 2015	Feb 2019	Oct 2022
5	Waikato	Oct 2015	June 2019	Dec 2022
6	Lincoln	Dec 2016	June 2020	June 2023
7	Otago	Sept 2016	June 2020	Oct 2023
8	AUT	April 2016	Sept 2020	Dec 2023

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.

Cycle 6 Enhancement Theme

The topic for the Cycle 6 Enhancement Theme has been finalised as “Access, Outcomes and Opportunities for Māori learners and for Pasifika learners”. It is expected that findings from theme activities will be relevant to other groups of learners who are under-represented in universities.

The first meeting of the Enhancement Theme Steering Group was held in Wellington on 14 September 2017. The meeting was chaired by Professor Robyn Longhurst, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic) at the University of Waikato. The other members of the steering group are:

Professor John Morrow, The University of Auckland
 Professor Giselle Byrnes, Massey University
 Professor Linda Trenberth, Victoria University of Wellington
 Professor Ian Wright, University of Canterbury
 (interim member)
 Professor Bruce McKenzie, Lincoln University
 Associate Professor Hon. Luamanuvao Winnie Laban
 Pasifika member
 Māori student member (to be confirmed) from Te Mana Ākonga

Walter Fraser, AUT
 Margaret Morgan, University of Otago
 Darryn Russell, Chair, Te Kāhui Amokura
 Dr Tasilete Teevale, Pasifika member
 Professor Pare Kesha, Te Kāhui Amokura
 Ali Leota, Pasifika student member

Sheelagh Matear, AQA Executive Director, and Fiona Johnson-Bell, Te Pouhārō, Portfolio Manager – Education System & Māori, UNZ, provide secretariat support to the group.



(from left: Dr Tasilete Teevale, Professor Bruce McKenzie, Professor Linda Trenberth, Professor Mark Barrow, Margaret Morgan, Professor Ian Wright, Professor Robyn Longhurst, Professor Giselle Byrnes, Professor Pare Keiha, Fiona Johnson-Bell, Tuari Potiki, Ali Leota, Associate Professor Hon. Luamanuvao Winnie Laban, Walter Fraser)

The first meeting of the Enhancement Theme Steering Group considered the topic of the theme, terms of reference for the group and a provisional operationalisation timeline. One of the questions discussed at the meeting is how the universities will ‘learn’ from the enhancement theme. Two sorts of reports are envisaged to address this. The first will be ‘synthesis’ reports which will attempt to collate progress and share good practice from across theme initiatives and activities. The second will be ‘evaluative’ reports which will assess the benefits gained from working in a collective way on the enhancement theme. It is anticipated that next year’s Support for Quality conference will focus on sharing progress so far across the theme.

Please contact any member of the Enhancement Theme Steering Group or Sheelagh for further information.

Communications Survey

Thank-you to everyone who responded to our communications survey. The survey has now closed and we will report on the results in the next newsletter.

Assessment and Integrity

I attended the Assessment and Review Summit in Melbourne earlier this month. The Australian universities and other higher education providers are paying a great deal of attention to assessment, moderation and calibration of marks. The Summit presentations are available at

<http://www.hes.edu.au/events/assessment-and-review-summit/>. An associated topic that is also receiving attention is that of academic integrity. Associate Professor Wendy Sutherland-Smith's presentation was both eye-opening and sobering <http://www.hes.edu.au/assets/Assessment-and-Review-Summit-2017/Wendy-Sutherland-Smith.pdf>. She drew attention to the second international day of action against contract cheating to be held on 18 October, 2017, see <http://contractcheating.weebly.com/>. In a similar vein, Rebecca Awdy is seeking engagement from universities to support her research and a survey into students' study behaviours in relation to engagement with essay mills and similar sites. See <http://www.academicintegrity.eu/wp/gems/> for further information, including how to participate.

Sheelagh Matear, Executive Director

The Higher Education Pacific Peer Quality Network

The Higher Education Pacific Peer Quality project involves five universities and higher education institutions in New Zealand and the Pacific benchmarking with one another on topics including teaching quality, programme quality and student voice. The emerging network is holding a peer review workshop for the project teams on 6 November and a collaboration forum with invited guests to share what they have learnt and their mutual experiences on 7 November.

Student Voice

Contributed by Dr Alistair Shaw, Executive Director, NZUSA

This week we begin our process to develop a refreshable pool of high-level student representatives who will eventually constitute the group able to be drawn upon as academic auditors. The Student Voice at Universities Summit on Wednesday brings student representatives who have been or will be involved in quality enhancement mechanisms at their institutions together for knowledge transfer and professional development.

Students from around the country will assemble at Universities New Zealand where those who have already been in office will share the things that they would have liked to have known before they started, and those coming into office will seek advice as to how to implement their initiatives. University Quality Managers will run sessions identifying the skills and support that student representatives involved in panel reviews and course approvals.

The nature of student representation means that students will turn over. Instead of pretending that does not happen, this initiative looks to make sure that there are good succession plans in place and that incoming representatives can be useful straight away. It is an important step towards the joint workplan for the New Zealand Union of Students' Associations and the Academic Quality Agency for New Zealand Universities.

The Summit will also be joined by Sophie Johnson, President of the Australian National Union of Students, here to observe and see if the initiative could be one that is mirrored across the Tasman.

Have You Seen This?

You will have no doubt have already seen the OECD's Education at a Glance for 2017, but we thought we should still include it in this issue's roundup of reports, papers and reviews. See <http://www.oecd.org/edu/education-at-a-glance-19991487.htm>

Professor Michael Woods has been leading a review of accreditation systems for health professions in Australia and the draft report was released earlier this month. It includes implications for how education providers work with accreditation bodies. See <http://www.coaghealthcouncil.gov.au/Projects/Accreditation-Systems-Review>

We have heard quite a lot about new models of tertiary education in New Zealand over the past 18 months. A UK report considers the impact of the Higher Education and Research Act (2017) on alternative forms of provision, student choice, and the diversity of the UK's HE sector. See <http://www.policyconnect.org.uk/research/one-size-wont-fit-all-challenges-facing-office-students>

The National Centre for Student Equity in Higher Education in Australia have released a report on access to professional careers. See <https://www.ncsehe.edu.au/ncsehe-2016-equity-fellowship-report-fair-connection-professional-careers/>

Ako Aotearoa have released the e-version of a synthesis report on the projects they have funded on Māori student success. See <https://ako.aotearoa.ac.nz/download/ng/file/group-4/ako-aotearoa-synthesis-of-projects-focused-on-supporting-maori-learners-report.pdf>

A slightly different "have you seen this" is the recently released film Bad Genius. See <http://www.imdb.com/title/tt6788942/reviews> for a review (and some spoilers).

Meetings and Conference Calendar

Wednesday 27 September in Wellington

Student Voice in Universities Summit

http://www.students.org.nz/uni_summit_2017

28 September 2017 in Wellington

Support for Quality

<http://www.aqa.ac.nz/events>

Monday 2 October in Wellington & live-streamed

An evidence-informed approach to support professional development and raise standards

<https://shop.ako.aotearoa.ac.nz/BAMBER17>

27 and 28 November 2017 in Dunedin

Talking Teaching, from the Ako Aotearoa

Academy of Tertiary Teaching Excellence

<https://akoacademy.ac.nz/ako-academy/2017-talking-teaching>

29 November 1 December 2017 in Dunedin

Assessing Learning is a practice-oriented conference

<https://alconference.ac.nz/>

29 November 1 December 2017 in Melbourne

TEQSA Conference and Higher Education and Quality Forum

<http://hes.edu.au/events/teqsaconference-and-hecq-forum-2/>

2-4 May 2018 in Mauritius

The 11th biennial INQAAHE forum

<http://www.inqaahe.org/blog/inqaahe-11th>

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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@aqaa.ac.nz or follow the links on our website www.aqa.ac.nz.

