

National Board of Employment, Education and Training

**Annual Report
1996–97**

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13 October 1997

The Hon. Dr David Kemp, MP
Minister for Employment, Education, Training and
Youth Affairs
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Minister

I am pleased to provide you with the 1996–97 Annual Report of the National Board of Employment, Education and Training, prepared in accordance with sub-section 9(1) of the *Employment, Education and Training Act 1988*.

The report documents the work of the Board and its two active Councils. In forwarding this report to you, I wish to acknowledge the significant contribution made by members over the year. I also wish to pay tribute to the Secretariat staff who have made an outstanding contribution to the operation of the Board and the Australian Research Council and the Higher Education Council.

I draw your attention to sub-section 9(8) of the *Employment, Education and Training Act 1988* which requires that you place a copy of the report before each House of Parliament within fifteen sitting days after the day on which you receive it. Standard conventions for tabling annual reports require them to be tabled before 31 October 1997.

Yours sincerely

Gordon Stanley
Acting Chair

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Overview

Introduction

The National Board of Employment, Education and Training was established under the *Employment, Education and Training Act 1988* to provide coordinated, independent advice to the Minister for Employment, Education and Training on matters relating to employment, education, training and research. The Board has been supported by five Councils:

- the Australian Research Council;
- the Higher Education Council;
- the Australian Language and Literacy Council;
- the Employment and Skills Council; and
- the Schools Council.

The Board was also supported by the Australian International Education Foundation Council (established formally as a committee of the Board).

Following the election in 1996, the Government announced its intention to abolish the Board and three of the Councils with the exception of the Australian Research Council and the Higher Education Council. In June 1996, the Employment, Education and Training Amendment Bill 1996 was introduced into Parliament to put these intentions into effect.

The Bill has not as yet gained passage, however, the Board and the three Councils have wound up their activities in accordance with a request from the Minister. The Australian Research Council and the Higher Education Council continue to operate. The Board's activities are confined to supporting the functions of these Councils.

The Minister requested that the Australian International Education Foundation Council continue its work pending consideration of future arrangements for the Australian International Education Foundation. The work of the Council is currently being supported by the Department of Employment, Education Training and Youth Affairs.

Future arrangements for the Australian Research Council and the Higher Education Council are uncertain. The Government will have an opportunity to review its arrangements for advisory structures in higher education when it considers the recommendations of the West Committee Report that is expected to be finalised in early 1998.

Highlights

The *Australian Research Council* has undertaken significant policy, programme and organisational developments in the past year to underpin its strategic approach to fulfilling its statutory role.

Collaborative links with research agencies in other countries were further strengthened when the Australian Research Council signed Memoranda of Understanding with the Czech Republic and Indonesia to facilitate research collaboration and the exchange of information.

The Australian Research Council's capacity to support research collaboration between higher education institutions and industry was enhanced when the Minister approved the establishment of the Strategic Partnerships with Industry - Research and Training (SPIRT) Scheme. The SPIRT Scheme will increase the flexibility of universities when they negotiate with industry on collaborative research and training activities. Proposals under the SPIRT Scheme may encompass research projects, research training or a combination of projects and training. They can be undertaken in conjunction with private enterprises or public sector organisations in the commercial, manufacturing and primary production sectors.

Good liaison with higher education institutions and a focus on research outcomes was promoted through the Australian Research Council's programme of institutional visits. Representatives of the Council visited higher education institutions in the Northern Territory, New South Wales, Queensland and the Australian Capital Territory, where they observed research infrastructure facilities and Key Centres and met with various groups from each institution to discuss matters of mutual interest. The visits were valuable for both the Council and the institutions in building and maintaining productive relationships.

The Australian Research Council initiated new and more efficient ways of working during the year. A restructuring of the roles and responsibilities of the Council's Programme Committees should result in greater coherence in policy development and funding advice as each Committee is responsible for a group of programmes with a common broadly defined strategic objective. The initiation of a Programme Management Group to address the administration of programme and evaluation matters has enabled the Council to focus more clearly on its policy, strategic and advisory roles.

The *Higher Education Council* has produced advice on a wide range of topics to the Minister for Employment, Education, Training and Youth Affairs. These topics included:

- Professional Education and Credentialism;
- Quality and Standards of Management Education;

- A Review of Commonwealth Higher Education Funding for Indigenous Australian Students;
- Quality in Resource-based Learning; and
- The Higher Education Council Eleventh Report to the National Board of Employment, Education and Training on the Operation of Section (14) of the *Higher Education Funding Act 1988* and the Higher Education Contribution Scheme.

The Higher Education Council also published two commissioned reports on:

- Performance-based Funding in Higher Education; and
- The Effect of Fee-paying Courses on Participation of Designated Equity Groups.

The Higher Education Council held extensive consultations during the year with the higher education sector on a range of subjects. These consultations have assisted the Council in formulating its advice to the Minister. The Council has also held discussion to assist it in ascertaining the views of the sector and other interest groups on aspects of higher education policy and activity. The main discussion forum held this year was a seminar on *Scholarship in Teaching*, with Dr Charles Glassick, interim President of the Carnegie Foundation of the United States of America, as the key speaker.

A new strategic plan was developed by the *Secretariat* which takes into account the changing policy framework within which the Australian Research Council and the Higher Education Council operate and to give direction to the role of the Secretariat and its interactions with these Councils.

Role and Mission

The Board's charter as defined in the Act is to inquire into, and provide advice to the Minister on, matters relating to: education; youth affairs; employment; training; research; language and literacy; international education and training; or adult and community education. The main focus of its work programme is the preparation of responses to matters specifically referred by the Minister. The Act also provides for the Board and its Councils to initiate work on their own motion, provided this does not prejudice the preparation of advice in response to Ministerial references.

A list of Ministerial references, on which there was activity during 1996–97 is at Appendix 4.

The Board is required to take account of any written directions or guidelines from the Minister on the Government's broad social, economic and budgetary policies.

When preparing advice for the Minister, the Board and its Councils consult widely with organisations and individuals in order to be fully informed on each issue and to present a balanced view. Appendix 8 contains a list of consultations held to assist in the preparation of reports.

Structure and Functions

The *Australian Research Council* is responsible for advising the Board on national research priorities and the coordination of research policy, including:

- support for fundamental research;
- the development and implementation of research programmes; and
- ways to enhance research personnel training and the interaction of the research sectors involved.

The Australian Research Council also provides advice directly to the Minister on the allocation of resources under various research funding schemes.

The *Higher Education Council* is responsible for advising the Board on higher education, including:

- the general development of higher education in Australia;
- the establishment of priorities for dealing with the needs of higher education institutions;
- the funding, planning and implementation of programmes aimed at meeting these priorities; and
- reporting on aspects of the operation of the *Higher Education Funding Act 1988*, including
 - consultation with institutions on educational profiles and
 - any other matter on which information or advice is required by the Minister.

The existing legislation established three other Councils. These are the Australian Language and Literacy Council, the Employment and Skills Council and the Schools Council. The functions of these Councils are defined in the Act. In anticipation of the passage of legislation to abolish the Board and these Councils, the Minister wrote to the Councils asking them to wind up their activities. The Councils have concurred with the Minister's request and they have, therefore, not undertaken any activities during this financial year.

Under the Act, up to four Counsellors may be appointed to provide support to the Board and its Councils. During 1996–97, Ms Linley Martin continued

her appointment as Counsellor to the Higher Education Council until her resignation on 6 September 1996.

During 1996–97, further support to the Councils was provided by Ms Jan Lowe as Special Adviser to the Higher Education Council and Dr Terrence Stokes as Special Adviser to the Australian Research Council.

Support to the Councils is also provided by committees which can be approved by the Minister at the Board's request to assist in carrying out Board and Council functions. The Australian Research Council is supported by four such committees, which in turn are supported by four discipline panels.

Ad hoc working parties are also established to assist the Councils to develop advice on particular issues.

The *Australian International Education Foundation Council* was established as a committee of the Board in the latter part of 1994, to promote and market Australian education and training services overseas. The Government announced its establishment in December 1993.

The Council is responsible for advising the Minister for Employment, Education, Training and Youth Affairs, through the Board, on international education and training, including:

- the general development and delivery of international education and training programmes and related activities;
- the promotion of international education and training;
- Australian collaboration in international research which is likely to promote international education and training; and
- the effects of international education and training on education and training in Australia.

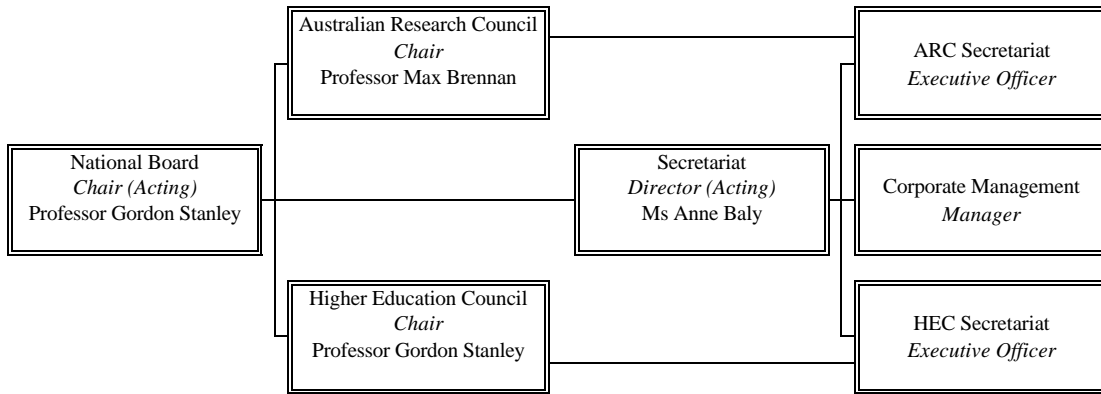
The Council also provides advice to the Office of the Foundation within the Department of Employment, Education, Training and Youth Affairs on Foundation programmes and management issues.

The Australian Research Council and Higher Education Council work programmes for 1996–97 are discussed in Chapters 3 and 4 respectively. The Board is covered in Chapter 2.

Organisational Structure (as at 30 June 1997)

Board and Councils

Secretariat



Further Information

Publications and further information about the National Board of Employment, Education and Training can be obtained from:

Publications Officer
NBEET Secretariat

GPO Box 9880
Canberra City ACT 2601

Telephone: (02) 6240 9881

Facsimile: (02) 6240 9891

Internet at www.deetya.gov.au/nbeet/nbeet.htm

The National Board

Functions

The responsibility of the National Board of Employment, Education and Training (NBEET) under the Act, is to provide information and advice to the Minister for Employment, Education, Training and Youth Affairs on a broad range of portfolio issues. The Board is asked specifically to inquire into:

- education, other than migrant adult education;
- youth affairs;
- employment and training;
- national research priorities and the coordination of research policy; and
- any other matter requested by the Minister.

In addition, the Board may provide advice on other matters which it identifies as relevant.

In June 1996, legislation was introduced into Parliament to abolish the Board and its Councils, with the exception of the Australian Research Council and the Higher Education Council. The Employment, Education and Training Amendment Bill 1996 has not as yet gained passage.

As required in the legislation, the Board continued to consider advice from its two active Councils prior to transmitting the advice to the Minister.

Membership

Under the provisions of the Employment, Education and Training Act, up to thirteen members may be appointed to the Board, with not more than five full-time members. Membership of the Board is broadly based, reflecting the cross-sectoral nature of its considerations. It is a requirement that two members have a business or industry background, two members have trade union experience and at least seven members have experience or expertise in matters relating to education, training, science or technology.

During 1996–97, several appointments expired and a process to appoint members to the Board to enable it to deal with advice from its two active Councils was initiated. A list of Board members is at Appendix 1.

Meetings

The Board did not meet during the year. The Board considered advice from the Australian Research Council and the Higher Education Council out of session.

Innovative Projects

An amount of \$960 000 was appropriated under the Grants for Innovative Projects Programme to fund projects in 1996–97. In that period, work proceeded on 11 innovative projects, involving expenditure of \$247 425. Details of the projects undertaken during 1996–97 are at Appendix 5.

Significant Activities of the National Board Chair

Since taking up his appointment as part-time Chair of the Board in July 1991, Mr Peter Laver contributed to all areas of the Board's work. His activities included regular meetings with the Minister and the Department and representing the Board at numerous seminars, presentations, meetings and other functions.

Mr Laver resigned as Chair of the Board with effect from 10 April 1997. Professor Gordon Stanley was appointed as Acting Chair from 11 April 1997.

Working Relationships with the Department of Employment, Education, Training and Youth Affairs

When the Employment, Education and Training Bill 1988 was debated in Parliament, a document describing proposed working relationships between the Board and the then Department of Employment, Education and Training was also tabled. This document continues to form the basis of ongoing working relationships.

In 1996–97, as in the past, the Department provided considerable information and assistance to both the Australian Research Council and the Higher Education Council. The Councils value the close working relationship and professional support, particularly of the Higher Education Division and its staff.

Australian Research Council

Functions

The Act gives the Australian Research Council (ARC) two broadly defined tasks:

- to provide advice to the National Board of Employment, Education and Training on national research priorities and the coordination of research policy; and
- to make recommendations to the Minister for Employment, Education, Training and Youth Affairs on the distribution of resources allocated to a range of specified research schemes.

The Council's research policy advice forms part of the spectrum of research policy advice given to Government by a variety of Commonwealth agencies and organisations. Likewise, its advice on the distribution of resources for the research schemes it supports takes account of the magnitude and nature of other research funding provided by the Commonwealth.

Mission

The Council's mission is to provide advice on research funding and research policy, and to promote the conduct of research and research training of the highest quality for the benefit of the Australian community. The Council has a special responsibility for research in the higher education sector, basic research and research training.

Research in the higher education sector ranges across the full spectrum of pure basic, strategic basic and applied research. The advancement of knowledge, which is the primary outcome of most of this research, produces five major benefits for the community:

- contributions to the quality of our culture;
- graduates of high quality;
- direct application of research results;
- increased institutional capacity for consulting, contract research and other service activities; and
- international links.

Basic research undertaken outside the higher education sector, in government instrumentalities or private organisations, produces similar outcomes, with the exception of supply of graduates.

Research training, at advanced undergraduate, postgraduate and postdoctoral levels, equips graduates with the appropriate knowledge, expertise and skills to contribute to Australian development through their work in higher education, government and industry.

Objectives

To carry out its mission, the Council must achieve the following objectives.

- Identify the role of research in higher education institutions and other organisations in the context of national research priorities and research performed in other sectors.
- Maintain high international standards in ARC supported research and research training.
- Achieve the appropriate balance of research activity across the full range of disciplines supported by the programmes.
- Maintain an adequate number and range of research training and research career opportunities and evaluate access to such programmes by people from disadvantaged groups.
- Establish and maintain effective linkages between the higher education sector and the business community, government organisations and the international research community.
- Realise the full benefits of research supported by the Council.
- Determine the resources required for satisfactory levels of research activity across the Council's programmes and review the scope and balance of funding under these schemes.
- Ensure effective management of resource allocations through the evaluation of the outcomes of funding programmes.
- Develop improved public understanding of the contribution made by basic research to national and individual social, cultural and economic well-being.

Membership

Under the provisions of the Employment, Education and Training Act, the Minister may appoint between eight and ten Council members on a part-time basis. The Council Chair is appointed on a full- or part-time basis by the Governor General. The Australian Research Council is broadly

representative of disciplines and research sectors. At 30 June 1997, there were ten members, including the Chair. Seven have backgrounds in the natural sciences or engineering and three in the humanities and social sciences; five bring with them extensive experience of competitive research funding schemes. The Chair, Professor Max Brennan, was appointed on a full-time basis at the beginning of 1991; other members serve part-time, usually for two or three years. A list of Council members is provided at Appendix 1.

Pictured are members of the Australian Research Council. At back (l to r) are Dr Peter Harvey, Professor Anne Edwards (Deputy Chair), Professor Ross Milbourne, Dr Marlene Bennett and Professor Peter Robinson.

At front (l to r) are Professor Vicki Sara, Professor Michael Barber, Professor Marilyn Sleigh, Professor Max Brennan (Chair) and Professor Margaret Clunies Ross.

Structure

Early in 1997, the Australian Research Council reorganised its advisory committees which have responsibility for managing the Council's funding programmes in order to provide a greater coherence in the provision of policy and programme advice and bring together programmes with like objectives. Each committee's programme responsibilities are now focused on only one prime objective rather than several, as was previously the case. The committees are:

- *Research Grants Committee*, which supports mainly basic research at the highest level. The committee is responsible for Small Grants, Large Grants, Special Research Centres, and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Researchers Development Grants;
- *Research Training and Careers Committee*, which supports research training and career development. The committee is responsible for Australian Postgraduate Awards (with stipend), Australian Postgraduate

Fellowships, Queen Elizabeth II Fellowships, Senior Research Fellowships, Australian Postdoctoral Fellowships and Overseas Postgraduate Research Scholarships;

- *University–Industry Research Collaboration Committee*, which encourages and supports research collaboration between industry and higher education institutions. The committee is responsible for Key Centres of Teaching and Research. It is also responsible for Collaborative Research Grants, and Australian Postgraduate Awards (Industry) which have been combined to form the Strategic Partnerships with Industry-Research and Training (SPIRT) Scheme for grants awarded for 1998 onwards; and
- *Committee for International and National Cooperation*, which supports the development of cooperative research activities nationally and internationally. The committee is responsible for administering Research Infrastructure (Equipment and Facilities) Programme, Special Research Initiatives, Learned Academies, and International Fellowships.

Each committee is chaired by a Council member. They have wide and appropriate representation from the research community. A list of committee members as at 30 June 1997 is at Appendix 2.

The work of the four committees is supported by four discipline panels, consisting of persons with outstanding records in research. These panels are:

- Biological Sciences;
- Engineering, Earth and Applied Sciences;
- Physical, Mathematical and Chemical Sciences; and
- Social Sciences and Humanities.

A list of members as at 30 June 1997 is at Appendix 3.

Review of Appointment Procedures

The Dunn Report, published in 1996, recommended formalising selection procedures and making the nomination and selection process more transparent and accountable. Resulting changes introduced to the process for nominating and selecting committee and panel members for 1996 included:

- development of selection criteria for all committees and panels;
- establishment of a Selection Group to recommend appointments to committees and panels to the Chair of the Board for transmission to the Minister;

- development of a formalised nomination process which included the nomination of one male and one female candidate for each vacancy for which there were suitable nominees; and
- provision of several nominees for each committee and panel vacancy, with the final recommendations on membership being determined by the Selection Group.

Full implementation of the Dunn Report is being undertaken in 1997 for 1998 membership. Major modifications to the nominations process include the development of a standardised electronic nomination form and the introduction of electronic submission of nominations. Committees and panels will be able to make better comparisons between nominees with all applicants being judged on the basis of the same information. This process should result in improved outcomes for nominating institutions and nominees.

Review of Higher Education Financing and Policy (the West Review)

The Council provided an information paper to the Review Committee, which included information relevant to the Committee's Terms of Reference. The paper analysed major themes identified by the Review Committee which relate to the research and training responsibilities of the Council.

Representatives of the Council also met with several members of the Review Committee to discuss aspects of the information paper in greater detail.

Council Meetings

The Council met five times during the year in Canberra. A Special Meeting of the Council was held on 26 March 1997 to discuss input to the Council's information paper to the review of higher education financing and policy (the West Review).

Council Work Programme

Funding Strategies for Basic Research

The Council has a role in providing advice to the Minister on national research priorities and the coordination and distribution of funding for Australian Research Council programmes. During 1996, a working party of the Council prepared a discussion paper, *Funding Strategies for Basic*

Research, Part 2—Balance of ARC Funding Across the Disciplines for circulation and comment to: government departments and agencies involved in the performance and funding of research; the Learned Academies; CSIRO; and other organisations with an interest in research strategies and the higher education sector.

In addition, the Council is now conducting a limited update of relevant Australian Research Council programmes so that a clear picture of total ARC expenditure, by both funding and distribution, is available by Field of Research for each programme. The update will also include material from the Australian Bureau of Statistics and other sources. This will assist the Council to plan its strategic objectives in relation to programme funding.

Balance of Funding—Across Disciplines and Institutions

The Council established a joint working party with the Higher Education Council to examine the balance of funding, research activity and research training across institutions and disciplines and to raise issues for further exploration and discussion. The working party met in 1995 and 1996 to identify and review the data needed to pursue the project and to clarify the intent of a possible reference on these matters to the Minister. To date, 1994 and 1995 data for research and higher degree research students and 1994 data for academic staff has been produced and this will be published on the Internet. Work is still in progress on 1995 data for academic staff.

Composite Index for the Allocation of the Research Quantum

Prior to 1996, the Australian Research Council and the Higher Education Council established a joint working party to address issues of concern with regard to the collection, verification and stability of data associated with the Composite Index.

In August 1996, as part of the *Higher Education Budget Statement*, the Minister announced a review of all reporting requirements in the higher education sector. There is a perception that the current data collection is substantially more detailed and probably more frequently conducted than required for the purpose. The review will encompass the inputs to the Composite Index used for the distribution of the research quantum of operating grant. Pertinent to this, the Council let a consultancy to carry out a study of the process used in the United Kingdom, which has a qualitative rather than a quantitative basis of allocating funds. The joint working party is at present examining the resulting report, *Alternatives to the Publications*

Index with a view to developing advice to the Council. The report will be published as a commissioned report.

The Level of Research on Topics of Interest to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies

The Council has been working on a reference to advise the Minister on the level of research on topics of interest to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies. It commissioned a report by the Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies, which included a database of relevant research, to inform its work.

A further stage on this project, which consists of consultations and discussions with reference to the findings and the database arising from Stage 1, is now in progress. It will identify significant gaps, discrepancies and anomalies in research of interest to Indigenous Australians. It will also develop options for the Council on how the Council could raise awareness within the research community of the impact of research on Indigenous Australians and the involvement of Indigenous Australians in research of interest to them. It is expected that the advice will be provided to the Minister in early 1998.

Review of the Institute of Advanced Studies

The Council's advice on the Institute of Advanced Studies was submitted to the Government in December 1995. The Minister responded to the Council in March 1997 and expressed her appreciation of the Council's stewardship of the review process.

Funding Programmes

The Council advises the Minister on a number of research funding programmes. Details of the various committees and the programmes they advise on are outlined below.

Research Grants Committee

Large and Small Research Grants

Grants are provided to support high quality research in all research areas, except clinical medicine and dentistry. Large Research Grants (above \$20 000 or \$30 000 per year, depending on research field) are assessed by the Research Grants Committee with the assistance of four Discipline Panels whose members are highly regarded researchers. Small Grants (above \$5000) are determined by individual institutions, acting as agents of the Council, from block grants allocated to eligible institutions.

Projects supported through the Large Grants Programme include research in designated thematic priority areas. Thematic priorities represent areas judged to be in need of specific encouragement or areas of particular importance in delivering benefits and are identified by the Council two years in advance. In 1996, the Council identified the following priorities for grants in 1998:

- citizenship;
- exploration geophysics;
- food science and technology;
- minerals processing science and technology;
- optics; and
- technological change.

Special Research Centres

The Special Research Centres Programme complements the Research Grants Programme by supporting centres of research activity based on researchers of the highest quality. There are currently nineteen such centres, each funded at a level within the range of \$0.4m to \$1m per year.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Researchers Development Programme

The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Researchers Development Programme is a programme to encourage participation in, and to improve the standard of, research conducted by Indigenous Australians. The key objective of the Programme is to develop performance and expertise to a level from which Indigenous Australians can compete in open competition for mainstream research funding.

Research Training and Careers Committee

Australian Postgraduate Awards (with stipend)

Australian Postgraduate Awards (with stipend) are competitive awards for Australian students undertaking higher degree studies in Australian higher education institutions. They are allocated by individual institutions in accordance with government guidelines.

Australian Research Fellowships

The Australian Research Fellowships Programme makes an important contribution to Australia's capacity to recruit and retain high quality researchers by providing fellowships to the most talented researchers from within Australia or from overseas. The Programme includes Australian Postgraduate Fellowships, Queen Elizabeth II Fellowships for young postdoctoral graduates, Australian Postdoctorate Fellowships, and Senior Research Fellowships.

Overseas Postgraduate Research Scholarships (OPRS) Scheme

The Minister has recently allocated the responsibility for the administration of the Overseas Postgraduate Research Scholarships Scheme to the ARC under the Employment, Education and Training Act. This is in response to the release of a review of the Scheme in 1996. A working party has been established to consider the objectives and scope of the Scheme within the Council's programme activities.

University–Industry Research Collaboration Committee

Key Centres of Teaching and Research

Key Centres of Teaching and Research are aimed at assisting the higher education sector's demands for expertise in particular fields, especially through teaching and research activities in areas relevant to national economic, technological and social objectives. They also promote cooperation between higher education and industry. There are currently fifteen Key Centres, each being funded within the range of \$0.2m to \$0.4m per year.

Collaborative Research Grants

The Collaborative Research Grants Programme aims to encourage research collaboration between higher education institutions and industry by supporting high quality research which has the potential for economic and social benefit for Australia. In assessing applications, the Council places most importance on the scope and nature of collaboration with the industry

partner in both the development and the management and conduct of the research project. Funds are provided to successful applicants on a matching basis with industry funding.

Australian Postgraduate Awards (Industry)

Australian Postgraduate Awards (Industry) are available to students with projects supported by industry.

For 1998 grants, a new programme has been introduced which combines the best features of Collaborative Grants and Australian Postgraduate Awards (Industry). The new programme is the Strategic Partnerships with Industry-Research and Training (SPIRT) Scheme.

Committee for International and National Cooperation

Research Infrastructure

The Research Infrastructure Programme which began in 1990, provides direct support to higher education institutions to develop and maintain their research infrastructure. Funding was provided initially for five years. In 1995, the programme structure was changed to provide two categories of grants: Research Infrastructure Block Grants and Research Infrastructure (Equipment and Facilities) Grants.

The Council has responsibility for the administration of the Research Infrastructure (Equipment and Facilities) Programme. The objective of the programme is to encourage institutions to establish cooperative arrangements for the development of research infrastructure within the higher education system and with outside organisations. However, applications could be accepted from individual institutions in cases where collaborative arrangements are impractical or inappropriate.

Special Research Initiatives Programme

The Special Research Initiatives Programme provides \$0.5m annually in support of networking activities among Australian researchers. The programme aims to develop collaboration among researchers already supported by ARC programmes so that the quality and effectiveness of that research may be enhanced. It also seeks to support research capacity in innovative areas.

Learned Academies

The Learned Academies promote excellence in research and learning and form an important link between the Government and research communities. The Government provides annual grant-in-aid funding of \$1.5m and special projects funding of \$420 000. The special projects funding is intended to support research proposals which capitalise on the Learned Academies' unique capabilities, and which may be expected to have results of broad benefit to science and learning in Australia.

International Fellowships

The International Research Fellowships Programme, which began in 1992, promotes international research links between Australia and France, Germany and Korea. Under the Programme, up to fifteen researchers from France, Germany and Korea will visit Australia for periods of up to one year to carry out high quality international collaborative research with Australian researchers in higher education institutions and other research bodies. These arrangements operate on a reciprocal basis whereby Australian researchers undertake research in France, Germany and Korea.

Research Evaluation Programme

The Council monitors and evaluates the effectiveness and efficiency of its research programme through the Research Evaluation Programme. Evaluation activities include evaluation of programmes, programme outcomes, and policy and process related to research support available through the Employment, Education, Training and Youth Affairs portfolio. The budget for the programme in 1996–97 was \$651 000.

The Research Evaluation Programme has three main objectives:

- reviewing the outcomes of research supported by Australian Research Council/Department of Employment, Education, Training and Youth Affairs research funding programmes;
- reviewing the efficiency and effectiveness of research funding programmes; and
- assisting research communities to establish goals and priorities and strategies to achieve them.

In 1996, the Council began a new evaluation phase which is intended to improve accountability and produce more strategic, policy oriented information.

Review of Grant Outcomes

Reviews of grant outcomes assess the efficiency and effectiveness of research supported through the Large Grants Scheme.

Twenty-four reviews have been carried out since 1991. In 1996–97 reviews of grants outcomes were undertaken in the fields of Plant Physiology, Atmospheric and Oceanographic Sciences, Education and Marine Biology. It is expected that the reviews will be tabled in Parliament later in 1997.

The series of grants outcomes reviews is now complete.

Discipline Research Strategies

Discipline research strategies enable the stakeholders within a discipline to develop a picture of where the discipline should be in ten or fifteen years time and to propose strategies for reaching that target.

The eighth research strategy report has recently been completed in the discipline of language and literacy. Other discipline strategies in progress are:

- management;
- information sciences;
- humanities; and
- social sciences.

Programme Evaluation

An evaluation of the Australian Postgraduate Research Awards programme has recently been completed. Evaluations of the Large Grants and Small Grants Scheme are currently underway.

Across Programme Evaluations

The Across Programme Evaluations assess a number of different ARC schemes. Two Across Programme Evaluations were commissioned in 1996–97.

- *Evaluation of industry-linked research funded by ARC targeted research schemes*—The purpose of the evaluation is to assess whether, and to what extent, ARC targeted research funding has met the Government’s objectives of supporting university–industry research interactions.
- *Evaluation of biological science research funded by ARC targeted research schemes*—This evaluation will review the effectiveness of ARC targeted research support in the context of Australian support in the biological sciences; in particular the extent to which this support has enabled the discipline to achieve the Government’s objectives in relation to research and research training.

International Links

Developing and strengthening international links has been a strategic objective of several of the ARC research programmes including the Special Research Centres, International Fellowships and Research Grants Programmes.

The Council has further developed international collaboration with research agencies overseas through the signing of formal Memoranda of Understanding. These Memoranda usually provide for the development of research cooperation through the exchange of information and through support of joint research projects conducted by researchers of both countries. Memoranda of Understanding have now been signed with agencies in Austria, the Czech Republic, China, France, Germany, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Korea, the Netherlands, Sweden and Switzerland. The Council also has a Memorandum of Understanding with Earthwatch.

Certain countries with which the Council has longstanding research links are treated as though a Memorandum of Understanding exists. These countries are Canada, New Zealand, the United Kingdom and the United States of America. A similar approach is adopted for research collaboration under the European Union Framework programmes.

Commissioned Reports

In February 1994, the Australian Research Council provided advice to the Minister entitled *The Strategic Role of Academic Research*, which examined the balance of government support for research across broadly defined discipline areas and the capacity of academic research to support broad national objectives. Since then the Council has initiated several projects to examine issues that have arisen from the study: *Using Basic Research*, published in 1995 and *Patterns of Research Activity in Australian Universities: Phase 1*, published in July 1996 which investigates and reports on the number of people undertaking research in each broad discipline area and institution and the characteristics of active researchers in terms of age, gender and career level.

Phase 2 of the Patterns of Research Activity project, which is now under way, requires a more detailed qualitative and quantitative analysis of higher education institutions. The level and distribution of discretionary institutional support for research is thought to vary widely, but has not been the subject of systematic study. The present project will undertake such an examination of what discretionary resources institutions apply to research, how that is determined, and how it is distributed. This will include both direct support for research and the associated infrastructure. Changes since the release of the Ministerial statement *Research for Australia: Higher Education's*

Contribution, in 1989, will need to be identified, together with any recent trends.

In addition, the project will consider the extent to which research patterns are comprised of large numbers of researchers or a small number of key performers, and the ways in which agency and institutional targeted funding determines levels of research activity, and how this is related to research outcomes of various kinds.

Waiting in the Wings: A Study of Early Career Academic Researchers in Australia published in September 1996 makes an important contribution to understanding the difficulties experienced by researchers at an early stage in the development of their research careers. The issues raised in the report are complex and the Council will give them careful consideration before embarking upon implementation. In the mean time 'early career' has been designated as a structural priority under the ARC Large Grants Scheme for the 1998 funding round.

The Council uses peer review in selecting projects for funding under competitive research schemes. A study published by the Council in January 1997, *The Peer Review Process*, provides an overview of the operation of peer review, both in Australia and in agencies overseas. The study identified a number of issues which the Council will address. The Council is in the process of implementing changes to improve the quality, effectiveness and efficiency of the selection procedure used in its programmes.

Other reports included *Determining Measures of the Quality and Impact of Journals*, a study published in August 1996, to help determine measures of the quality and the impact of journals as research publications, with a view to developing quality categories which would be incorporated in the composite index.

Institutional Visits

Institutional visits provide an opportunity for Council, Committee and Panel members to meet with senior staff in institutions to discuss research management and policy issues, see at first hand the outcomes of research funding through the ARC programmes and gain a better appreciation of the facilities and laboratories available for research at each institution. They also allow the staff and students of institutions to exchange information and views with the ARC participants at various levels of interaction.

Between July and November 1996 institutional visits were made to Northern Territory University, The University of New South Wales, The University of Sydney, Macquarie University, Queensland University of Technology,

Griffith University, The University of Queensland, The Australian National University, University of Canberra and The Australian Catholic University.

Significant Activities of the Chair

During 1996–97, Professor Brennan consulted regularly with organisations involved in research and funding issues, such as the Australian Vice-Chancellors' Committee, the Australian Science and Technology Council, the Australian Vice-Chancellors' Committee's Standing Committee on Research, the Office of the Chief Scientist and the four Learned Academies. As the Council's representative, Professor Brennan was involved in the work of the Higher Education Council, the Coordination Committee on Science and Technology, the Anglo-Australian Telescope Board, the Composite Index Working Party, and the Australian Council for Educational Research. He also undertook a number of speaking engagements and visited higher education research facilities around Australia.

Professor Brennan represented the Council at several conferences and seminars including the *newImages* Science Policy Workshop, the Anglo Australian Telescope Symposium, the National Tertiary Education Union/Federation of Australian Science and Technological Societies Science Careers Symposium, the Astronomy Symposium, and the Academy of Science Symposium.

Close liaison was maintained with Canberra-based Science Counsellors at various foreign missions, such as the Embassies of Italy, France, and the People's Republic of China. Representatives of several international research bodies visited Australia and met with Professor Brennan.

Professor Brennan had discussions with a number of overseas research organisations during his overseas visits. He also attended meetings of the Anglo-Australian Telescope Board in Manchester, and participated in the World Bank URGE Project in Jakarta. He gave presentations to the OECD Symposium on Public Understanding of Science and Technology in Tokyo, the Australia/India Science Colloquium in New Delhi, and the 20th Anniversary of the Establishment of KOSEF in Seoul.

Presentation by Professor Brennan, Chair of the Australian Research Council, at the Korean Science and Engineering Foundation (KOSEF), Seoul, June 1997

Activities of the Counsellor/Special Adviser

Dr Terry Stokes was appointed Special Adviser to the Council from 9 September 1996 to 30 June 1997. During that time Dr Stokes represented the Chair in his absence and was responsible for work on *Funding Strategies for Basic Research—Part 2, Balance of ARC Funding Across the Disciplines*. Dr Stokes was also responsible for the information paper which the Council submitted to the *Review of Higher Education Financing and Policy* (the West Review).

Higher Education Council

Functions

At the request of the Minister, the Higher Education Council inquires into and provides information and advice on matters relating to:

- the general development of higher education in Australia;
- the marketing overseas of higher education programmes developed in Australia;
- the establishment of priorities to be given in dealing with the needs of higher education institutions and other institutions providing higher education;
- the funding, planning and implementation of programmes aimed at meeting such priorities;
- the granting of financial assistance by the Commonwealth in respect of higher education institutions and other institutions offering higher education; and
- any other matter on which information or advice may reasonably be required by the Minister.

The Council also initiates its own work on any of the matters referred to above.

The Council also inquires into and provides a report each year on the operation of:

- Section 14 of the *Higher Education Funding Act 1988*, including the role of educational profiles in supporting Commonwealth priorities in higher education; and
- the Higher Education Contribution Scheme, including its effects on access to higher education, and the level and quality of postgraduate research.

The Council also consults with institutions on the preparation of educational profiles and variations of such profiles for the purposes of section 14 of the *Higher Education Funding Act 1988*.

In providing sound advice to the Government, the Council draws upon the breadth of experience and expertise represented by its members and also, through extensive consultations, on the information and knowledge base of the sector itself. This capacity to combine in-house and sectoral expertise and

experience means that the Council can provide the Government with advice at the big-picture level or at a more detailed level as required. These two levels of advice are complementary because, often, through examining components of the sector, the Council is able to discover issues that relate to the sector at a higher level and advise Government accordingly.

In its policy statement, *Higher Education: Quality, Diversity and Choice (February 1996)*, the Government announced that the Higher Education Council would be given a wider range of functions. Whilst a final decision has yet to be taken on the future structure and functions of the Council, the Minister has already recognised the Council's important ongoing role by asking it to guide the development of the Government's approach to quality improvement in higher education.

Priorities

The Council's priorities for 1996 and 1997 have largely focused on issues relating to quality in higher education and specific equity issues.

In its November 1995 advice to the then Minister, the Council recommended a number of changes to the use of discretionary funding, including using the funds to ensure the continuation of a national quality improvement programme. The Council recommended a number of key changes to the existing programme. These included a shift in the objectives of the programme towards a stronger focus on measurable quality outcomes which are relevant to each institution's particular mission and goals, and a shift away from focusing only on quality processes. The Council also recommended a number of structural changes to the programme, including the introduction of annual reporting on progress towards quality objectives, as well as a more comprehensive evaluation every three years.

Many of the Council's recommendations have been accepted by the Government and now form part of the new quality improvement process. Furthermore, the Council now has a central role in the new quality improvement process and this role is discussed in more detail elsewhere in this chapter.

The Council has an ongoing responsibility for equity matters and in 1996–97 the Council provided the Minister with several significant reports relating to equity matters. Many of these reports follow on from the advice provided to the Minister in April 1996 entitled *Equality, Diversity and Excellence: Advancing the National Equity Framework*.

This year the Council has provided the Minister with advice on *A Review of Institutional Use of Commonwealth Higher Education Funding for Indigenous Students, Professional Education and Credentialism*. As part of

its *Eleventh Report to the National Board of Employment, Education and Training on the Operation of Section 14 of the Higher Education Funding Act 1988 and the Higher Education Contribution Scheme*, the Council advised on the effects of the introduction of fee-paying postgraduate courses on access for designated equity groups.

The Council has also commissioned a number of studies aimed at exploring specific equity issues in more detail. These studies and the above mentioned reports are discussed in more detail elsewhere in this chapter.

At a Higher Education Council meeting, pictured are (l to r) Ms Jan Lowe (Special Adviser), Professor Nick Saunders (member), Professor Joan Cole (member), Professor Gordon Stanley (Chair) and Ms Lee Watts (member).

Membership

Under the provisions of the Employment, Education and Training Act, the Minister may appoint between eight and ten Council members on a part-time basis. The Council Chair is appointed on a full- or part-time basis by the Governor-General. Membership of the Council is broadly based with strong representation from the higher education sector.

Professor Gordon Stanley was appointed to the position of full-time Chair of the Council and Deputy Chair of the Board, with effect from 1 December 1994 until 30 November 1997.

A list of Council members is at Appendix 1.

Council Meetings

The Council met six times during the year, four times in Canberra, once in Melbourne and once at the Queensland University of Technology in Brisbane. The Council held a joint meeting with the Australian Research Council in conjunction with its February meeting.

Council Work Programme

While the Council is able to examine issues on its own initiative, much of its work comes either from legislation, the Employment, Education and Training Act, or as a result of references from the Minister.

Legislative Requirements

There are two main issues on which the Act requires the Council to report. These are educational profiles and the Higher Education Contribution Scheme. In March each year the Council provides the Board with its annual report on these matters. The most recent report is the *Higher Education Council Eleventh Report to the National Board of Employment, Education and Training on the Operation of Section 14 of the Higher Education Funding Act 1988 and the Higher Education Contribution Scheme*. This report was transmitted through the Board to the Minister in May 1997 and was tabled in the House of Representatives on 19 June 1997 and in the Senate on 24 June 1997.

Educational Profiles

Under Section 21(1)(c) of the Employment, Education and Training Act, the Higher Education Council is required to report to the National Board of Employment, Education and Training on the effectiveness of the educational profiles process and the impact of the Higher Education Contribution Scheme. The profiles process is a means of negotiating resources and related issues between the Department of Employment, Education, Training and Youth Affairs and the institutions. The discussions also provide an opportunity for the Council to raise issues of particular interest. For most of the profile discussions, in 1996, two members or one member and its Counsellor or Executive Officer represented the Council.

The agenda for the 1996 profile visits included discussion on load targets, growth, capital, equity and Indigenous Australian issues, research, enterprise bargaining, competition policy, future regulatory mechanisms, performance-based funding and research higher degree infrastructure.

Higher Education Contribution Scheme

The Council is also required to report annually on the impact of the Higher Education Contribution Scheme. In its Eleventh Report, the Council reported that the scheme was working well and meeting the objectives for which it was implemented.

The report provided an analysis of rates of growth, the gender and age of students, participation rates, the number of Indigenous Australian students enrolled in higher education courses, the changes in numbers of postgraduate students, changes in enrolments across fields of study, and receipts from up-front Higher Education Contribution Scheme payments.

On the basis of general enrolment statistics, the Council is of the view that the administration of the Higher Education Contribution Scheme continues to be satisfactory and is not deterring students from participating in higher education. As the Council had noted in the past, it is not possible to draw valid conclusions relating to the impact of Higher Education Contribution Scheme on enrolments from the data. This is because demand has fluctuated over time and enrolments are influenced by factors other than the Higher Education Contribution Scheme, including the availability of employment options for school-leavers and the employment market for graduates. The report also includes chapters on institutional autonomy and fee-paying post-graduate programmes.

The Minister issued a press release on the report at the time it was tabled. The report received significant media coverage and was distributed widely.

Advice to the Minister

The Higher Education Council completed three pieces of advice to the Minister during 1996–97. Two pieces of advice had as their theme the pressures on higher education quality assurance and accreditation processes. The other focused on the equity of participation in higher education.

Quality and Standards of Management Education (September 1996)

The report *Quality and Standards of Management Education* discusses the pressures on higher education quality assurance and accreditation processes, with specific reference to management education.

In response to the previous Government's request to 'examine and report on the practical mechanisms for addressing the quality and standards of management, including the establishment of a professional accreditation system which actively involves industry', the Higher Education Council

undertook a review of management education. The review included a series of consultations involving large and small business, peak bodies, students and the tertiary sector.

The report makes three recommendations:

- that there should not be a mandated formal accreditation process for management education in Australia;
- that institutions consider the value of voluntary accreditation, including participation in international processes where this provides them with feedback about the standards of their own offerings; and
- that institutions develop a set of indicators for management education that is readily available to its clients and which provides detailed information about the programmes offered and the resources supporting the programmes.

The Council believes that any market demands for national accreditation can be met by a voluntary system. The Council included in its report a list of minimum standards for accreditation should voluntary accreditation be seen as necessary. In the Council's view such standards should include:

- national and international demonstrated commitment to benchmark with other institutions recognised by the relevant industry;
- recognition and remuneration for staff with continuing management experience;
- effective industry input through advisory mechanisms;
- 'work-based' projects included as part of the management education experience; and
- a proportion of staff with relevant academic and industry experience.

The report was tabled in both the Senate and the House of Representatives on 5 November 1996.

Professional Education and Credentialism (December 1996)

The role of professional associations in curriculum design and content emerged as an issue for closer consideration as a result of the Council's consultations with institutions as part of the educational profiles process. The former Minister for Employment, Education and Training asked the Council to:

- examine the role of professional associations in curriculum design and content, and the accreditation of graduates;
- review the relationship between higher education study and entry to the professions including an examination of the equity between the streams

of entry into the various professions and the extent of public subsidy;
and

- examine the issue of fees for postgraduate courses for professional entry and practice.

This reference was confirmed by the current Minister in May 1996.

The Council's report describes the interactions between universities and professional organisations, the role of these professional bodies in curriculum design and content and the accreditation of graduates, and the relationship between higher education study and entry to the professions. The report informs consideration of the relationship of higher education and the professions and industry, as well as the pressures on higher education quality assurance and accreditation processes.

The Council concluded that the relationships between the universities and the professional bodies are very complex and vary significantly between professional fields. Industry requirements, student demand, government policy, the regulatory environment and globalisation influence the relationships over regulation and accreditation of courses.

The main findings of the report are summarised as follows:

- From its analysis of the student profile in the professions and the costs charged for some entry pathways, the Council noted that the profiles of the professions were often not representative of the community as a whole. Decisions made by professional bodies on admitting graduates to practice and on the nature of their entry requirements should therefore not exacerbate what is already an unsatisfactory situation in relation to equity of access to all groups in the community.
- To address some of these equity issues, the Council believes that universities should regularly monitor the profile of enrolments in professional education courses and develop strategies jointly with professional bodies to ensure that, as far as possible, they reflect the broad diversity of the community in their composition.
- The Council also examined the nature of accreditation processes used in the various professions, and concluded that the internal quality assurance processes of the universities primarily secure the academic quality of professional education university courses. The Council recognised that the alignment of outputs from the courses with the requirements of professional practice both in Australia and increasingly overseas is of critical importance and can best be achieved by external accreditation processes. Such processes should, wherever practicable, recognise internal quality assurance processes and should be focused on required outputs rather than the detailed manner in which outputs are achieved.
- The Council also made some observations on funding:

- funding of basic professional education should be consistent within a given profession and should be substantially publicly subsidised to ensure equity of access;
- the issue of funding of professional education, including whether or not professional education should be consolidated at the undergraduate level or exempt from fees, should be examined as part of the recently announced review of higher education policy and funding; and
- a review of the impact of the 1996–97 Budget decisions on undergraduate and postgraduate entry-level professional education should be undertaken in 1999.

The report was tabled in both the Senate and the House of Representatives on 11 December 1997. In her response to the Council's advice, the Minister advised that she had asked the Department of Employment, Education, Training and Youth Affairs to consider, in the context of preparations for the 1998–99 Budget, the Council's suggestion that the impact of the 1996–97 Budget decision on undergraduate and postgraduate entry level professional education should be reviewed in 1999.

A Review of Institutional Use of Commonwealth Higher Education Funding for Indigenous Australian Students (March 1997)

The Council prepared this advice in response to a formal reference from the former Minister for Employment, Education and Training. The present Minister confirmed the reference in May 1996 and asked the Council to examine the existing arrangement of Commonwealth funding to higher education institutions in respect of Indigenous Australian higher education students and advise on the desirability or otherwise of any change to those arrangements.

The Council's findings suggest that allocation of funds through the operating grant, with a separate grant for support funds, are accepted in principle but there is a need for greater transparency in the implementation of the model. Indigenous Australian people in higher education feel disempowered through a lack of information and understanding of the implementation of the funding model and the means by which funds are allocated within institutions.

The report makes recommendations in the following areas:

- the basis and application of the Relative Funding Model to increase the transparency of funding decisions. It suggests that this should be considered by the Review of Higher Education Funding and Policy;
- internal institutional processes for the distribution of funds received for Indigenous Australian students;

- consultation in relation to the development of appropriate performance measures for the allocation of support funding;
- employment patterns;
- encouraging the involvement of Indigenous Australians in academic research and teaching;
- staff development; and
- coordination of funding support.

The report also sets down attributes of best practice based on programmes and policies observed to be successful in the course of consultations.

This report was tabled in the Senate on 7 May 1997 and in the House of Representatives on 13 May 1997. The Council has forwarded a copy of the report to the Committee for the Review of Higher Education Financing and Policy so that it can consider the Council's recommendations.

Ongoing References

The Council currently has two ongoing references, both of which relate to the Council's work on quality improvement and assurance.

Achieving Quality Outcomes in Higher Education

The Higher Education Council has been asked by the Minister to guide the development of the Government's approach to quality improvement in higher education.

The Minister asked the Council to develop a structure for the new approach that includes:

- the integration of quality improvement into the educational profiles process;
- reviews of quality improvements in institutions every three to four years;
- reviews of such higher education aspects as are of interest to the Government and the sector, which may emerge from time to time;
- general guidance and assistance to higher education institutions on quality improvement matters; and
- public reporting of progress made in quality improvement in the sector.

On 21 April 1997, the Council provided the Minister with its interim advice on the Government's new quality assurance and improvement process. The interim advice set out the proposed structure for the new process and draft

guidelines to assist institutions' preparation of quality improvement planning and reporting as part of the educational profiles process. The interim advice also set out the Council's priorities for ongoing work on quality improvement, including commissioning a consultant to identify appropriate indicators for reporting on sector-wide quality performance, as well as undertaking further consultation on the nature of institutional reviews. The Minister accepted the Council's interim advice on 25 June 1997.

Preparation of *Achieving Quality Outcomes in Higher Education*, the Council's interim advice, involved extensive discussion and consultation. An early draft of the proposed structure was sent to all Vice-Chancellors, the Australian Vice-Chancellors' Committee and the Department of Employment, Education, Training and Youth Affairs for comments. The Council also held consultations with university staff with responsibility for planning and quality matters to seek feedback on the clarity of the guidelines and also on the proposed structure for the new process.

The Council will provide the Minister with its final advice later in the year.

Quality in Resource-based Learning

As part of the Council's quality remit to provide general guidance and assistance to higher education institutions on quality improvement matters, the Minister has asked the Council to provide advice on an appropriate quality framework, including equity of access, for resource-based learning in higher education. The issues covered by the reference arise out of the introduction of innovative measures to enhance student study modes and the development of flexible learning activities as a result of the impetus of distance and open learning activities.

In referring this issue to the Council, the Minister asked that it feed into the consideration of the broad issue of the impact on higher education of information and communication technology to be undertaken by the Review of Higher Education Financing and Policy.

During discussions at a Higher Education Council meeting, pictured are (l to r) Ms Anne Baly (Executive Officer), Professor Ian Chubb (member), Professor Jan Reid (member) and Professor Jane Morrison (member).

Other Activities

Equity

The Council, through its Equity Working Party, continues to monitor and develop strategies to assist disadvantaged groups to raise their level of participation in higher education and to monitor the impact of government policy and funding arrangements in higher education on the designated equity groups.

During the year the Equity Working Party has considered a number of actions to follow-up on issues arising from its report *Equality Diversity and Excellence—Advancing the National Higher Education Equity Framework* which was provided to the Minister in April 1996. A key follow-up action was to advise the Council to commission an innovative project to investigate how the composition of academic and administrative staff in higher education institutions may influence the access and participation of certain equity groups. This project is described below in greater detail. The Equity Working Party will be considering the issue of problems relating to providing support to students with disabilities and identification of students from rural, isolated and low socio-economic backgrounds later in the year.

The Equity Working Party has also been addressing several of the issues arising from the Council's advice on *A Review of Institutional Use of Commonwealth Higher Education Funding for Indigenous Australian Students*. It has undertaken preliminary work on Indigenous Australian staff employment patterns within institutions and the development of advanced skills in academic research and teaching for Indigenous Students.

Evaluations and Investigations Programme

During 1996–97, Council members represented the Council on a range of advisory committees for the Department of Employment, Education, Training and Youth Affairs's Evaluations and Investigations Programme. Council representation on Evaluations and Investigations Programme projects ensures that the Council is able to contribute its knowledge and expertise to a wide range of undertakings relating to the sector and also

ensures that the Council and the Department are able to coordinate the commissioned studies they undertake.

Joint Activities with the Australian Research Council

The Higher Education Council maintains close links with its partner Council, the Australian Research Council. During the year, the Councils were involved in two joint projects:

- the balance of funding across institutions and disciplines; and
- the composite index for the allocation of the Research Quantum.

The details on these two projects are provided in the previous chapter.

Commissioned Reports

Performance-based Funding of Universities (November 1996)

The Council commissioned a study on performance-based funding to explore literature on performance-based funding in overseas higher education systems and to examine the extent to which Australian universities are currently using such processes to allocate their resources internally.

The report surveys the experience of performance-based funding in a number of countries where it has been applied to universities. As well, it covers examples of such use within Australian universities. The report reviews the extant literature in performance-based funding in higher education, drawing attention to some of the difficulties associated with this approach to funding. A useful set of design criteria and strategic issues that need to be addressed when considering such an approach to funding was also provided.

The Effects of the Introduction of Fee-paying Postgraduate Courses on Access for Designated Groups (May 1997)

This report was commissioned by the Council to examine the effects of the introduction of postgraduate fee-paying courses on the six designated equity groups—women, Indigenous Australians, people of non-English speaking background, people of low socio-economic status, people in rural and remote areas, and people with physical, psychological or cognitive disabilities.

The report concludes that taking all groups and other variables into account, it is likely that fees have a deterrent effect on enrolment in postgraduate courses and in practice, direct some groups, particularly women and those of

low socioeconomic background, towards HECS-based enrolment. It also notes that in the current funding climate, where it is likely that more courses will require full-cost fees or higher, concessions will be fewer, and this will require careful monitoring in the future. The Council plans to include monitoring of this matter in its future annual reports on the Operation of Section 14 of the *Higher Education Funding Act 1988* and the Higher Education Contribution Scheme.

Composition of Academic and Administrative Staff in Institutions

The Council is currently undertaking a study of the patterns of participation in higher education and the profile of academic and administrative staff of universities to ascertain the social and cultural background of staff working in universities.

This initiative is in response to a recent review by the Council that found that, in spite of the introduction of many initiatives by universities to remove barriers to participation, some of the designated equity groups remain under-represented in the student profile. The Council concluded that the reasons for this required deeper examination and that more complex solutions need to be devised to address the culture of the higher education system. The study is based on the premise that current university staffing profiles may have an impact on students from some of the designated equity groups through the absence of role models and a less direct understanding of the problems faced by equity group students.

Selection Methods for Entry into Higher Education

In 1994, the Schools Council of the Board prepared a discussion paper on *The Role of Schools in the Vocational Preparation of Australia's Senior Secondary Students*. The report suggested that the widespread use of the Tertiary Entrance Rank (TER) as the primary basis of entry to university put an undue emphasis on preparation for university on the secondary curriculum. The report indicated that this emphasis militated against a broader pathways approach to post-secondary work and study.

Responding to this suggestion, the Higher Education Council is undertaking a project to investigate mechanisms currently used in Australia and overseas to select students for entry into higher education. The project is considering the impact which various methods of entry have on secondary curriculum, pressures on students, participation by members of equity groups and the reliability of the mechanisms as a predictor of success in tertiary study.

This project is particularly timely considering the changes to TER requirements that some States are currently making or considering.

The project is being undertaken in two parts: one providing the international data and the second the Australian information. The first report was completed in mid-May and is expected to be published early in 1997–98. The second is expected to be completed in August 1997 and published soon after.

Seminars and Conferences

As well as providing advice to Government on higher education issues, the Council's composition and responsibilities ensure that it is in a strong position to facilitate discussion of issues relevant to the sector. These seminars provide an excellent forum for broad ranging discussion on diverse issues and, in particular, allow for inputs from people with differing backgrounds.

Scholarship in Higher Education (March 1997)

On 7 March 1997, the Higher Education Council hosted a seminar in Canberra to provide a forum for discussing a range of issues associated with the concept of scholarship in the higher education sector. The invited speaker was Dr Charles Glassick, Interim President of the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching.

Participants in the seminar were drawn from the Higher Education Council and the Australian Research Council, senior staff of the Australian Vice-Chancellors' Committee secretariat, Department of Employment, Education, Training and Youth Affairs senior executive staff, members of the Higher Education Review Committee and senior executive staff from the Australian National University and Canberra University.

The forum provided the opportunity for exchange and comparison of views and information from Australian and American perspectives. It was also an opportunity to consider directions and findings of recent Carnegie Foundation research into the perceptions of academic staff across a number of countries.

Undergraduate Curriculum Seminar (in preparation)

The Council will be holding a seminar on changes to the undergraduate curriculum jointly with the Academies forum in July 1997. The seminar will address the undergraduate curriculum issues identified in the recent Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) report on *The First Years of Education in Australia*.

Performance Based Funding Seminar (in preparation)

Later this year, the Council will be jointly holding a seminar on performance-based funding with the Australian Vice-Chancellors' Committee. The seminar will address issues relating to funding mechanisms for higher education and has arisen as the result of a study of the same name commissioned by the Council last year.

Consultations

In keeping with its charter, the Council engaged in consultations on the following issues:

- professional education and credentialism;
- use of Commonwealth higher education funding for Indigenous Australian students;
- quality in resource-based learning; and
- achieving quality outcomes in higher education.

Details of individuals and organisations consulted are provided at Appendix 8.

Significant Activities of the Chair

Professor Gordon Stanley continued in the position of Chair of the Council and Deputy Chairperson of the Board. Following the resignation of Mr Peter Laver from his position as Chair of the Board, Professor Stanley was appointed to act as Chair of the Board from 11 April 1997.

During 1996–97, Professor Stanley consulted regularly with organisations such as the Australian Vice-Chancellors' Committee, professional associations, the National Union of Students, the National Tertiary Employees Industry Union, the Council of Australia Postgraduate Associations and the National Academies Forum. He also consulted with higher education institutions through either the educational profiles process or as a result of topic specific consultations.

Professor Stanley continued to chair the Higher Education Taskforce of the Ministerial Council on Employment, Education, Training and Youth Affairs. The Taskforce met three times during the year.

Professor Stanley also chaired the Higher Education Council's Quality Working Party, as well as several steering committees for studies commissioned by the Council. He attended meetings of the Institutional Grants Committee of the Australian Research Council, as well as participating in Joint Planning Committee discussions between the Department and State government officials. As a working party member, Professor Stanley attended meetings of the Australian Vice-Chancellors' Committee Composite Index Working Party and the Joint Australian Vice-Chancellors' Committee/Department of Employment, Education, Training and Youth Affairs/Australian Bureau of Statistics Statistical Working Group.

During the year, Professor Stanley contributed to a number of major national and international conferences and seminars on a range of topics including international student education, assessing quality in higher education, managing higher education in a changing environment, the course experience questionnaire and tertiary education administration.

Professor Stanley met with international delegations from higher education organisations in Sweden, Indonesia, Vietnam and South Africa. He attended a round table meeting with the President of the Seoul National University and a meeting in Sydney with Dr Lowe from the University of Edinburgh. As part of a team from the Department of Employment, Education, Training and Youth Affairs, Professor Stanley participated in a short term World Bank project on the reform of the higher education sector in Vietnam. The project involved work in Vietnam in September and December 1996 and January and June 1997.

Activities of the Counsellor/Special Adviser

Ms Lin Martin was appointed Counsellor to the Higher Education Council with effect from 29 January 1995. She resigned from this position with effect from 6 September 1996.

Ms Jan Lowe was contracted to the position of Special Adviser with the Higher Education Council from 7 November 1996 until. Her contract continues until November 1997. Since becoming Special Adviser, Ms Lowe has been involved in a significant number of Council activities.

Administrative Arrangements

Staffing Overview

Secretariat staff are officers of the Department of Employment, Education, Training and Youth Affairs. The Secretariat has responsibility for supporting the activities and work of the Board, its statutory Councils, and the various committees and working parties established by the Board and Councils. During 1996–97, the Secretariat had an average staffing level of 28.6 (including full-time holders of public office).

The breakdown of staff at level and the proportion of male and female staff are shown in the following table.

Table 1: Number of Staff and Proportion of Males/Females in Secretariat by Actual Classification (at 30 June 1997)

Actual Level	Male	Female	Total	Females as % of Total
<i>Director (SES Band 1)</i>		1	1	100
<i>SOG B</i>		2	2	100
<i>SOG C</i>	1	4	5	80
<i>ASO 6</i>		6	6	100
<i>ASO 5</i>	1	3	4	75
<i>ASO 1–4</i>	2	5	7	71
Total	4	21	25	84

Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO)

The Secretariat complies with Equal Employment Opportunity policies promulgated by the Public Service and Merit Protection Commission and the Department of Employment, Education, Training and Youth Affairs National EEO Plan. These EEO initiatives form the framework for the preparation and implementation of the Board Equal Employment Opportunity Plan.

Training

The Secretariat's training statistics are included in the overall figures for the Department of Employment, Education, Training and Youth Affairs, reported in the Department's *Annual Report*. However, the specific figures for the Secretariat are:

Table 2: Training Statistics

<i>Total Payroll (non-SES at Budget 1996–97)</i>	\$2 715 800
<i>Actual Eligible Training Expenditure</i>	\$19 700
<i>Number of Staff at the End of the Financial Year</i>	27
<i>Person Days Participation in Eligible Programmes*</i>	90
<i>Number of Staff Participating</i>	20
<i>Staff in Special Categories Participating:</i>	
<i>Women</i>	15
<i>Non-English Speaking Background</i>	2
<i>Indigenous Australians</i>	1

*Categories of Eligible Programmes: Study Bank, Lectures, Workshops, Training Seminars

Occupational Health and Safety

In occupational health and safety matters, the Secretariat is considered to be part of the Department of Employment, Education, Training and Youth Affairs and is committed to providing a safe working environment and meeting the requirements of the *Occupational Health and Safety (Commonwealth Employment) Act 1991*.

There were no accidents or dangerous occurrences in 1996–97 that required notification under Section 68 of the above Act. In addition, the Board received no directions (Section 45) or notices under the Act.

Fraud Control

The Department has produced a Fraud Control Plan (1994–96) which covers the Secretariat. The plan has been approved by the Commonwealth Law Enforcement Board and, in addition, by the Minister for Employment, Education, Training and Youth Affairs.

There were no instances of fraud during 1996–97.

Information Technology Purchasing Arrangements

To ensure that the Secretariat conforms to Government policy on information technology purchases, the Secretariat makes use of the Department's Systems Division purchasing group for acquisition of information technology goods and services.

Payment of Accounts

Statistics showing the time taken to pay accounts by the Secretariat cannot readily be separated from the full Departmental picture as this information is maintained in the Accounts Payable module of the Department's financial management system. The report for the Secretariat is therefore included in the Department's *Annual Report*.

The Secretariat gives high priority to paying accounts quickly. This is done to conform to Government policy, to maintain good relations with the individuals and organisations who supply the Secretariat with goods and services, and to gain maximum discounts where available for early payment of accounts.

Financial Statements

The Board allocation for 1996–97 was appropriated in two lines: one to cover running costs, including salaries and administration and the second to cover the Grants for Innovative Projects Programme. An additional amount was included in the Department's allocation for the Australian Language and Literacy Policy to provide for the operation of the Australian Language and Literacy Council. The Secretariat manages, operates and administers its budget in accordance with the priorities of the Board and its Councils and in accordance with, and subject to, existing policies and procedures for committing and expending public monies.

Running costs include:

- salaries, sitting fees and travel allowances payable to holders of public office;
- salaries and allowances for staff of the Secretariat;
- travel (domestic and international) for members of the Board, Councils, committees, working parties and panels, Counsellors and Secretariat staff;
- expenses associated with the conduct of meetings;
- publications and printing;
- acquisition, maintenance and repair of office machines, equipment and furniture (including information technology equipment and services);
- official hospitality; and

- consultants.

The following table summarises the financial outcomes for the Board and its Councils for 1996–97.

Table 3: National Board Expenditure, 1996–97

Budget Item	Allocation (\$)	Actual Expenditure (\$)	Proportional Expenditure (%)
Administrative Expenses			
National Board			
Sitting Fees		295	
Travel		2 565	
Other*		301	
Sub-total		3 161	
Australian Research Council**			
Sitting Fees		725 182	
Travel		461 390	
Other*		549 676	
Sub-total		1 736 248	
Higher Education Council			
Sitting Fees		13 719	
Travel		103 281	
Other*		127 921	
Sub-total		244 921	
National Board Secretariat			
Travel		15 947	
Printing		201 481	
Consultancies		242 021	
Other*		307 819	
Sub-total		767 268	
Total Administrative Expenses	2 844 000	2 751 598	97
Salaries***	2 812 000	2 327 367	83
Total Running Costs	5 656 000	5 078 965	90
Innovative Projects Programme	960 000	247 425	26
Australian Language and Literacy Council	501 000	6 263	1

* Includes expenditure on such items as training, advertising etc

** Includes expenditure for Australian Research Council Committees and Panels

*** Includes overtime, employers contribution to superannuation, etc

Consultancy Services

The policy covering the selection and engagement of consultants is set down in the Departmental Secretary's Management and Finance Instructions No. 37, and is explained in the Department's *Annual Report*. Consultancies undertaken on behalf of the Board during the year are listed at Appendix 6.

The main purpose for which consultants are engaged is to supply special skills, not available within the Secretariat, for a specific task or for a limited period of time.

Industrial Democracy

The Board is committed to participative decision-making processes. It supports the Department's Industrial Democracy Plan 1994–96, which provides a framework through which management and staff, through their unions, can participate in decision-making in a spirit of goodwill, commonsense and cooperation. During 1996–97, Secretariat staff participated in the development of the Secretariat's strategic plan.

Advertising and Market Research

The following table provides details relating to amounts paid by, or on behalf of, the Secretariat to media advertising and direct mail organisations during 1996–97.

Agency	Amount	Description
TMP Worldwide Pty Ltd	\$3 778.56	Advertisements seeking public submissions
Neville Jeffress Pty Ltd	\$11 277.16	Advertisements seeking public submissions
Neville Jeffress Pty Ltd	\$7 637.52	Advertisements for consultants

Note: This table does not include advertising undertaken by the Australian Government Publishing Service on behalf of the Board.

Membership of the National Board and Councils

National Board

Members	Year of First Appointment	Appointment Expiry Date
<i>Chair</i>		
Mr Peter Laver Group General Manager & Senior Vice President, Environment, Safety and External Affairs, BHP Minerals	1994	10/04/97
<i>Acting Chair*</i>		
Professor Gordon Stanley Chair, Higher Education Council	1994	30/11/97
<i>Members</i>		
Professor Max Brennan AO Chair, Australian Research Council	1988	15/08/97
Ms Sharan Burrow Federal President, Australian Education Union	1995	31/12/96
Mr Rodney Cavalier Chair, Australian Language and Literacy Council	1991	02/12/96
Professor Ian Chubb Vice-Chancellor, The Flinders University of South Australia	1990	31/12/96
Professor Margaret Clunies Ross Head, Department of English, University of Sydney	1995	31/12/97
Mr Peter Kirby Chair, Employment Skills Council	1996	31/12/98
Ms Anne Morrow Chair, Schools Council	1991	15/07/96
Ms Alison McClelland Director, Social Policy and Research Centre Brotherhood of St Laurence	1993	31/12/96
Ms Heather Ridout Director, Metal Trades Industry Association	1995	31/12/96
Mr Ian Spicer AM Chief Executive, Australian Chamber of Commerce and Industry	1990	31/12/96

* Professor Gordon Stanley was appointed as Acting Chair on 11/4/97.

Australian Research Council

Members	Year of First Appointment	Appointment Expiry Date
Chair		
Professor Max Brennan AO	1991	15/8/97
Deputy Chair*		
Professor Anne Edwards Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Flinders University of South Australia	1994	31/12/97
Members		
Professor Michael Barber Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research), University of Western Australia	1997	31/12/99
Dr Marlene Bennett Research Associate, BHP Research Melbourne Laboratories	1996	11/12/98
Professor Margaret Clunies Ross Head, Department of English, The University of Sydney	1995	31/12/97
Professor Michael Dilworth School of Biological and Environmental Sciences, Murdoch University	1994	31/05/97
Dr Peter Harvey Manager, Research and Development, Kodak (Australasia) Pty Ltd	1997	31/12/99
Professor Tom Healy School of Chemistry, University of Melbourne	1993	31/12/96
Professor Ross Milbourne Head, School of Economics, University of New South Wales	1997	31/12/99
Professor Mary O'Kane Deputy Vice-Chancellor, The Flinders University of South Australia	1993	31/12/96
Professor Peter Robinson AM Deputy Vice-Chancellor, University of Wollongong	1996	11/12/98
Professor Vicki Sara Dean, Faculty of Science, Queensland University of Technology	1997	31/12/99
Professor Ralph Slatyer AC Visiting Research Fellow, Research School of Biological Sciences, Australian National University	1995	31/08/96
Professor Marilyn Sleigh Director, Biomedical Research, Peptide Technology	1995	21/08/98
Professor Bruce Thom Vice-Chancellor, University of New England	1994	31/12/96

Professor Anne Edwards was a Council member prior to appointment as Deputy Chair from 1 May 1997.

Higher Education Council

Members	Year of First Appointment	Appointment Expiry Date
<i>Chair</i>		
Professor Gordon Stanley	1994	30/11/97
<i>Deputy Chair</i>		
Associate Professor Jane Morrison Pro-Vice-Chancellor, University of New South Wales	1994	31/12/96
<i>Members</i>		
Dr Carolyn Allport National President, National Tertiary Education Industry Union	1995	11/12/98
Professor Joan Cole Head, School of Physiotherapy, Curtin University of Technology	1995	11/12/98
Professor Ian Chubb Vice Chancellor, The Flinders University of South Australia	1990	31/12/96
Mr Robert Fordham	1994	16/09/96
Professor Janice Reid Pro Vice-Chancellor (Academic), Queensland University of Technology	1995	11/12/98
Professor Nick Saunders Dean, School of Medicine, The Flinders University of South Australia	1994	31/12/96
Ms Lee Watts Senior Lecturer, Bowater School of Management and Marketing, Deakin University	1994	31/12/97

Australian International Education Foundation Council
(as at 30 June 1997)

Members	Year of First Appointment	Appointment Expiry Date
<i>Chair</i>		
Mr Eric Mayer AM FACS FAIM	1994	31/12/97
<i>Members</i>		
Professor Nell Arnold School of Marketing and International Business	1994	30/07/97
Dr Ken Boston Director General of School Education New South Wales	1996	31/12/98
Ms Christine Bundesen Institute of Continuing and TESOL Education University of Queensland	1996	31/12/97
Ms Sue Christophers General Manager Quality and Change Management Division Office of Training and Further Education	1994	31/12/98
Mr Leith Doody General Manager Products and Services Exports Australian Trade Commission	1996	31/12/98
Mr Brian Gray Managing Director Metropolitan English and Business College	1994	31/12/97
Mr Peter Laver Group General Manager and Senior Vice President Environment, Safety and External Affairs BHP Minerals	1994	31/12/98
Professor John Niland Vice-Chancellor University of New South Wales	1996	31/12/97
Professor Michael Osborne Vice-Chancellor La Trobe University	1996	31/12/98

Professor Malcolm Logan resigned on 22/11/96.

Professor Fay Gale resigned on 25/11/96.

Australian Research Council Committees Membership at 30 June 1997

Committee for International and National Cooperation (previously known as the Institutional Grants Committee)

Members	Year of First Appointment	Appointment Expiry Date
<i>Chair</i>		
Professor Vicki Sara Queensland University of Technology	1997	31/12/98
<i>Deputy Chair</i>		
Professor Lawrence Cram The University of Sydney	1995	31/12/97
<i>Nominees from the Higher Education Council</i>		
Professor Gordon Stanley Chair, Higher Education Council	1995	30/11/97
<i>Members</i>		
Professor Ah Chung Tsoi University of Queensland	1995	31/12/97
Dr Suzanne Golding The University of Queensland	1997	31/12/99
Professor Ross Large University of Tasmania	1995	31/12/97
Dr Carolyn Morris Aeronautical and Maritime Laboratory	1997	31/12/99
Professor Merle Ricklefs The Australian National University	1995	31/12/97
Professor Nick Saunders The Flinders University of South Australia	1995	31/12/97
Professor Margaret Sedgley The University of Adelaide	1995	31/12/97

The term of Professor Tom Healy, Chair, expired on 31/12/96.

The term of Professor Helen Garnett, Deputy Chair, expired on 31/12/96.

The term of Professor Robert Breakspere expired on 31/12/96.

The term of Professor Nick Saunders was extended until 31/12/97.

Research Training and Careers Committee

Members	Appointment	Expiry Date
Professor Michael Barber University of Western Australia	1997	
<i>Deputy Chair</i>		
Dr Janet McCalman University of Melbourne	1995	31/12/97
<i>Members</i>		
Professor Stephen Cox University of Newcastle	1997	31/12/99
Associate Professor Colin Hansen University of Adelaide	1997	31/12/99
Professor Philip Kuchel University of Sydney	1997	31/12/99
Professor Andrew Lister University of Queensland	1995	31/12/97
Professor Douglas McEachern University of Adelaide	1997	31/12/99
Professor Belinda Probert Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology	1995	31/12/97
Professor Derek Robinson The Australian National University	1997	31/12/99
Professor Lesley Rogers University of New England	1997	31/12/99
Dr Halina Rubinsztein-Dunlop University of Queensland	1995	31/12/97
Professor Richard Russell Deakin University	1995	31/12/97
Professor Robert Whelan University of Wollongong	1995	31/12/97

The term of Professor Michael Dilworth, Chair, expired on 31/5/97.

The term of Professor Peter Swannell, Deputy Chair, expired on 31/12/96

The term of Professor Alan Carey expired on 31/12/96.

The term of Professor William Sawyer expired on 31/12/96.

The term of Professor Vicki Sara expired on 31/12/96.

The term of Professor Christopher Powell expired on 31/12/96

The term of Professor Belinda Probert was extended until 31/12/97.

University-Industry Research Collaboration Committee

Members	Appointment	Expiry Date
Professor Peter Robinson University of Wollongong	1996	
<i>Deputy Chair</i>		
		31/12/97
University of Technology, Sydney		
<i>Members</i>		
Professor Paul University of Western Sydney		31/12/99
Dr Claire Baxter University of Sydney	1997	
Professor Robert University of Sydney		31/12/98
Dr William Blevin	1995	31/12/97
Clark	1995	
Western Mining Corporation		
Professor Trevor Queensland University of Technology		31/12/97
Dr William Jones Tioxide Asia Pacific		31/12/98
Nicol	1996	
Telstra		
Professor Ron Sacks-Davis	1995	31/12/97
Spottiswood	1997	
Curtin University of Technology		

The term of Professor Peter Robinson, Chair, was extended until 31/12/97.

The term of Professor Trevor Grigg was extended until 31/12/97.

The term of Dr Megan Clark was extended until 31/12/97.

Hirst expired on 31/12/96.

The term of Dr William

The term of Professor John Ralston expired on 31/12/96.

Larkum expired on 31/12/96.

Research Grants Committee

Members	Year of First Appointment	Appointment Expiry Date
<i>Chair</i>		
Professor Ross Milbourne University of New South Wales	1995	31/12/98
<i>Deputy Chair</i>		
Professor Raymond Jarvis Monash University	1997	31/12/97
<i>Members</i>		
Professor Nigel Bond The University of Western Sydney	1997	31/12/97
Professor Mary Chan University of New South Wales	1997	31/12/97
Professor Evan Leitch University of Technology, Sydney	1997	31/12/98
Professor Caroline McMillen University of Adelaide	1997	31/12/98
Professor Donald Napper University of Sydney	1996	31/12/97
Professor Richard Shine University of Sydney	1997	31/12/97
Professor Ian Sloan University of New South Wales	1997	31/12/98

Professor Ross Milbourne was a Committee member prior to his appointment as Chair on 18/2/97.

The term of Professor Mary O’Kane expired on 31/12/96.

The term of Professor Alan Robson expired on 31/12/96.

The term of Professor Donald Napper was extended until 31/12/97.

The term of Professor James Williams expired on 31/12/96.

The term of Professor Christopher Healey expired on 31/12/96.

The term of Professor Ian Dawes expired on 31/12/96.

The term of Professor Anthony Ewart expired on 31/12/96.

Australian Research Council Discipline Panel Membership at 30 June 1997

Biological Sciences Discipline Panel

Members	Year of First Appointment	Appointment Expiry Date
<i>Chair</i>		
Professor Caroline McMillen University of Adelaide	1996	31/12/98
<i>Deputy Chair</i>		
Professor Richard Shine University of Sydney	1997	31/12/97
<i>Members</i>		
Professor Gregory Barritt The Flinders University of South Australia	1996	31/12/98
Professor James Burnell James Cook University	1997	31/12/99
Professor Michael Bryden University of Sydney	1996	31/12/98
Professor Peter Dunkley University of Newcastle	1996	31/12/98
Dr Derek Eamus Northern Territory University	1997	31/12/99
Professor Jennifer Graves La Trobe University	1996	31/12/98
Professor Michael Hynes University of Melbourne	1997	31/12/99
Professor Alistar Robertson Charles Sturt University	1997	31/12/99
Professor Robert Saint University of Adelaide	1995	31/12/97

The term of Professor Alan Robson expired on 31/12/96.

Professor Caroline McMillen was a Panel member prior to her appointment as Chair.

The term of Professor Ian Dawes expired on 31/12/96.

The term of Dr David Day expired on 31/12/96.

The term of Professor Margaret Clayton expired on 31/12/96.

Engineering, Earth and Applied Sciences Discipline Panel

Members	Year of First Appointment	Appointment Expiry Date
<i>Chair</i>		
Professor Raymond Jarvis Monash University	1994	31/12/97
<i>Deputy Chair</i>		
Professor Evan Leitch University of Technology	1996	31/12/98
<i>Members</i>		
Professor John Booker University of Sydney	1996	31/12/98
Associate Professor Mark Bush University of Western Australia	1996	31/12/98
Professor Antonio Cantoni Curtin University of Technology	1996	31/12/98
Dr Ross Coventry Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation	1995	31/12/97
Associate Professor Patrick Kelly University of Queensland	1996	31/12/98
Professor Rao Kotagiri University of Melbourne	1997	31/12/99
Professor Jason Middleton University of New South Wales	1996	31/12/98
Professor Ian Nicholls Monash University	1997	31/12/99
Associate Professor Judy Raper University of New South Wales	1996	31/12/98
Dr Francis Rose Aeronautical and Maritime Research Laboratory	1997	31/12/99

The term of Professor Raymond Jarvis was extended until 31/12/97.

Professor Evan Leitch was a Panel member prior to appointment as Chair.

The term of Professor Anthony Ewart expired on 31/12/96.

The term of Professor Yiu-Wing Mai expired on 31/12/96.

The term of Associate Professor Richard Brent expired on 31/12/96.

Physical, Mathematical and Chemical Sciences Discipline Panel

Members	Year of First Appointment	Appointment Expiry Date
<i>Chair</i>		
Professor Don Napper University of Sydney	1997	31/12/97
<i>Deputy Chair</i>		
Professor Ian Sloan University of New South Wales	1997	31/12/98
<i>Members</i>		
Professor Hans Bachor The Australian National University	1997	31/12/99
Professor Ian Dance University of New South Wales	1995	31/12/97
Dr Neville Fletcher Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation	1995	31/12/97
Professor Paul Haddad University of Tasmania	1996	31/12/98
Professor Ian James Murdoch University	1995	31/12/97
Professor Robert Leckey La Trobe University	1997	31/12/99
Professor Ralph Prager Flinders University of South Australia	1996	31/12/98
Associate Professor Andris Stelbovics Murdoch University	1995	31/12/97

The term of Professor James Williams, Chair, expired on 31/12/96.

The term of Professor Donald Napper, Deputy Chair, expired on 31/12/96. He was appointed Chair until 31/12/97.

The term of Professor Ian Sloan expired on 31/12/96. He was appointed Deputy Chair until 31/12/98.

The term of Professor Geoffrey Opat expired on 31/12/96.

Social Sciences and Humanities Discipline Panel

Members	Appointment	Expiry Date
Professor Nigel Bond The University of Western Sydney	1995	
Deputy Chair		31/12/97
University of New South Wales		
Members		
Professor Diane University of Sydney		31/12/99
Professor Patricia Crawford University of Western Australia	1996	
Professor Robert Griffith University		31/12/99
Dr David Frankel Trobe University		31/12/98
Professor John Golding	1997	31/12/99
		31/12/99
The Australian National University		
Professor Beryl Hesketh	1997	31/12/98
		31/12/98
University of Melbourne		
Professor Graham Hugo University of Adelaide	1994	
Professor Genevieve Lloyd	1995	31/12/97
		31/12/98
University of Tasmania		
Professor Rosemary Pringle	1997	31/12/99
		31/12/99
University of Canberra		

The term of Professor Ross Milbourne expired on 31/12/96.

Healey expired on 31/12/96

The term of Professor Margaret Thornton expired on 31/12/96.

The term of Professor Graham Hugo was extended until 31/12/97.

Elim Papadakis expired on 31/12/96.

The term of Dr Anthony Milner

Schedule of Ministerial References on which there was activity during 1996–97

Date of Minister's Letter	Text of Reference	Action Record	Date of Final Advice to Minister	Date Tabled	Date of Minister's Reply
20 Feb 1995	<p><i>Professional Education and Credentialism</i></p> <p>The Higher Education Council should</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • examine the role of professional associations in curriculum design and content, and the accreditation of graduates; • review the relationship between higher education study and entry to the professions including an examination of the equity between the streams of entry into the various professions and the extent of public subsidy; and • examine the issue of fees for postgraduate courses for professional entry and practice. 	<p>The Council established a Steering Committee to guide the project and commissioned an innovative project to survey professional organisations to explore in greater detail the relationship between them, and to identify different streams of entry to the professions and sources of funding for entry level qualifications.</p> <p>The Committee also sought submissions from interested parties, scanned university handbooks and admissions publications and sought information from institutions on the professional bodies with which they had contact.</p>	13-11-96	H of R and the Senate 11-12-96	10-12-96

Date of Minister's Letter	Text of Reference	Action Record	Date of Final Advice to Minister	Date Tabled	Date of Minister's Reply
21 Apr 1995	<p><i>Overall Level of Support for Research into Topics of Specific Interest to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples</i></p> <p>Recommendation 5.1 of the Australian Science and Technology Council (ASTECC) report proposed an examination of the overall level of support for research into topics of specific interest to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. The ARC was asked to give consideration to Recommendation 5.1 of the ASTECC report.</p>	<p>Referred to Australian Research Council at 3–4 May 1995 Board meeting</p> <p>Australian Research Council wrote to Minister on how it intended to address the reference on 31 August 1995.</p> <p>The ARC provided the Board with a progress report at its May 1996 meeting.</p> <p>Stage 1 of the project, which focused on developing a database of relevant research, was completed in December 1996.</p> <p>The ARC wrote to the Minister, on 23 September 1996 to inform her of the outcomes of Stage 1, to outline the purpose and anticipated outcomes of Stage 2, and to seek her endorsement of Council proceeding to Stage 2. The Minister endorsed the Council's plans on 23 September 1996.</p> <p>The Council commissioned a consultant and work commenced on Stage 2 in April 1997. The Council expects to finalise its advice to the Minister early in 1998.</p>			

Date of Minister's Letter	Text of Reference	Action Record	Date of Final Advice to Minister	Date Tabled	Date of Minister's Reply
23 May 1995	<p><i>Monitoring and Reporting of Fees and Enrolment Patterns in Postgraduate Courses</i></p> <p>The Minister for Employment, Education and Training requests that the Higher Education Council:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Monitor the range and levels of fees charged by higher education institutions for postgraduate courses; <li>• monitor enrolment patterns in all postgraduate courses in higher education institutions; and <li>• collect information on and monitor the extent, if any, of institution practice with regard to the substitution of postgraduate for undergraduate courses. <p>The Council is to advise on these matters for the next two years in the first instance as part of its statutory responsibility for monitoring the operation of the education profiles process.</p>	<p>The Council provided its first report on this reference in its 10th Report to the National Board of Employment, Education and Training on the Operation of Section 14 of the <i>Higher Education Funding Act 1988</i> and the Higher Education Contribution Scheme.</p> <p>The Council commissioned an innovative project in 1996 to examine the effect of fee-paying postgraduate courses on access of designated equity groups. This study was published as a commissioned report in May 1997 and formally launched by the Council.</p>	<p>The Council provided its final advice to the Minister in May 1997 as part of its Eleventh Report to the National Board of Employment, Education and Training on the Operation of Section 14 of the <i>Higher Education Funding Act 1988</i> and the Higher Education Contribution Scheme.</p>	<p>H of R 19-6-97</p> <p>Senate 24-6-97</p>	<p>The Minister issued a press statement on the advice on 19-6-97.</p>

Date of Minister's Letter	Text of Reference	Action Record	Date of Final Advice to Minister	Date Tabled	Date of Minister's Reply
30 Nov 1995	<p><i>Quality Standards for Management Education</i></p> <p>The Higher Education Council , through the Board, is requested to examine and provide advice on the following:</p> <p>The Council should examine and report on practical mechanisms for addressing the quality and standards of management education, including the establishment of a professional accreditation system which actively involves industry. This advice should be formulated taking account of current developments in management education, including the deliberations of groups such as the Leaders Group on Management.</p>	<p>The Council undertook a complex consultation process involving responses to a set of questions, written submissions and face to face consultations held in Adelaide, Perth, Melbourne, Sydney and Brisbane.</p>	24-9-96	<p>H of R and the Senate</p> <p>5-11-96</p>	

Date of Minister's Letter	Text of Reference	Action Record	Date of Final Advice to Minister	Date Tabled	Date of Minister's Reply
11 Jan 1996	<p><i>Review of Commonwealth Higher Education Funding for Indigenous Australian Students</i></p> <p>The Minister asked the Council to “examine the existing arrangements of Commonwealth funding to higher education institutions in respect of indigenous higher education students and advise on the desirability or otherwise of any change to those arrangements. In undertaking this reference, the Council should consider the effect that any alternative approaches may have on indigenous education in general, indigenous student performance and institutional management. The Council should take cognisance of the contents of, and the activities which will be supported by, initiatives announced in October 1995, as part of the new indigenous higher education policy framework. The Council will also need to be aware of the outcome of the recently implemented review of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander support funding conducted by the Curtin University of Technology.</p> <p>The Council's advice should be formulated after taking account of the views of the broad indigenous higher education community including its representative groups, higher education institutions and other interest groups as appropriate. The Council should ensure that competing views are given due recognition while being mindful of the overall objective to optimise successful outcomes for indigenous students. I would appreciate the advice of the Board on this reference by 30 June 1996.”</p>	<p>The Council established a Working Party to oversight preparation of advice for consideration by the Council. The Working Party advised universities of its brief by letter and sought their co-operation. Information was collected through the use of a background questionnaire, reference to institutional strategic plans and from the 1996 Evaluations and Investigations Programme report, <i>A Review of Support funding for Indigenous Australian Students in Higher Education</i> (Ham, 1995). This information provided the framework for the conduct of national consultations involving members of the Working Party and representatives of major interest groups within the universities and interested Indigenous Australian organisations and individuals outside universities.</p>	5-3-97	<p>Senate 7-5-97</p> <p>H of R 13- 5-97</p>	29-5-97

Minister's Letter	Action Record	Date of Final Minister	Date	Date of Minister's
3 Sep 1996	<p><i>Quality in Resource-based Learning</i></p> <p>impetus in developing and introducing innovative measures to enhance student study modes and there is occurring in the sector. The broad issue of the impact of advanced information and communications</p> <p>Review of Higher Education as announced on 9 Statement.</p> <p>One aspect of this broader issue is the apparent variability in the quality of resource-based learning</p> <p>capacity of these flexible learning arrangements to enhance access needs to be balanced against their</p> <p>Consequently, the impact of increasing the use of flexible learning arrangements on equity groups needs</p> <p>Council is requested to provide advice on an appropriate quality framework, including equity of</p> <p>education. In undertaking this study, the Council is asked to work closely with the proposed Review of</p> <p>study may inform the review, the Council is asked to report by 31 97.</p>	1-7-97	H of R and the	26-8-97

Date of Minister's Letter	Text of Reference	Action Record	Date of Final Advice to Minister	Date Tabled	Date of Minister's Reply
9 Jan 1997	<p><i>Achieving Quality Outcomes in Higher Education</i> "I ask that the Council implement the Government's approach to quality assurance and improvement in higher education by developing a structure which includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the integration of quality improvement into the educational profiles process; • reviews of quality improvement in institutions every three to four years; • reviews of such higher education aspects as are of interest to the Government and the sector, which may emerge from time to time; • general guidance and assistance to higher education institutions on quality improvement matters; and • public reporting of progress made in quality improvement in the sector. <p>I would further ask that the Council's advice on the development of the proposed structure, draft guidelines to assist institutions' preparation of quality improvement planning and reporting as part of the profiles process, and the development of sector wide performance indicators, be provided by 31 March 1997. I would also be grateful for the provision by 31 October 1997 of draft guidelines and a proposed timetable to the first round of institutional reviews to begin in 1998."</p>	<p>The Council convened a Quality Working Party to assist it in preparing advice to the Minister. It held consultations with the AVCC, the Department and the sector throughout March 1997 and presented the Minister with interim advice on 21 April 1997. The Council has also commissioned a consultant to assist it in identifying sector wide quality indicators for the sector. The Council expects to provide the Minister with final advice later in the year.</p>	Interim advice provided on 21-4-97	Not tabled because it was not final advice	25-6-97

National Board Grants for Innovative Projects Programme

Details of expenditure on National Board Innovative Projects during 1996–97 are as follows:

Project Title	Consultant	Sponsoring Body	Expenditure 1996–97 (\$)
The Peer Review Process	University of New England	ARC	10 000
Professional Education and Credentialism	University of South Australia	HEC	17 300
Effects of Performance Based Funding in Universities	Centre for Continuing Education, The Australian National University	HEC	25 530
The Effects of Further Moves Towards Fee Paying Postgraduate Courses on Access for Designated Groups	Centre for Continuing Education, The Australian National University	HEC	32 600
Advancing the National Framework for Equity in Higher Education	The University of Southern Queensland	HEC	15 000
Research of Interest to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People – Stage 1	Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies	ARC	10 313
Research of Interest to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People – Stage 1 (Supplementary Work)	Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies	ARC	11 916
Composition of Academic and Administrative Staff in Institutions	The University of Melbourne	HEC	14 625
Selection Methods of Entry into Higher Education–Part 1	Murdoch University	HEC	44 850
Resource Based Learning	Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology	HEC	53 391
Alternatives to the Publications Index	The Australian National University	ARC	11 900
Total			247 425

Schedule of Consultancies

During 1996–97, the Board used administrative funds, in accordance with the guidelines provided by the Department of Employment, Education, Training and Youth Affairs, for consultancies necessary for the efficient and effective operation of the Board and its Councils. Expenditure on consultancies during 1996–97 is provided below.

Consultancy Title	Consultant	Sponsoring Body	Expenditure 1996–97 (\$)
Appraisal of National Board and Council records	Anthony Eccleston	Sec	8 800
Special Advisor to the Higher Education Council	Jan Lowe	HEC	110 594
Special Advisor to the Australian Research Council	Murdoch University	ARC	122 627
Design and deliver strategic planning workshop	PALM Management	Sec	3 600
TOTAL			245 621

Publications and Advice to the Minister 1996–97

Patterns of Research Activity in Australian Universities: Phase 1: Final Report (Commissioned Report No. 47)	July 1996
Determining Measures of the Quality and Impact of Journals (Commissioned Report No. 49)	July 1996
ARC News (August 1996)	August 1996
Waiting in the Wings: A Study of Early Career Academic Researchers in Australia (Commissioned Report No. 50)	September 1996
The Implications of Technology for Language Teaching (Commissioned Report No. 52)	September 1996
Annual Report 1995–96	September 1996
Quality and Standards of Management Education	September 1996
Performance-based Funding of Universities (Commissioned Report No. 51)	November 1996
Employment Potential of New and Emerging Industries: With Special Reference to the Environment and Community Sectors (Commissioned Report No. 53)	November 1996
Professional Education and Credentialism	December 1996
The Peer Review Process (Commissioned Report No. 54)	January 1997
A Review of Institutional Use of Commonwealth Higher Education Funding for Indigenous Australian Students	March 1997
The Effects of the Introduction of Fee-paying Postgraduate Courses on Access for Designated Groups (Commissioned Report No. 55)	May 1997
Eleventh Report to the National Board of Employment, Education and Training on the Operation of Section 14 of the <i>Higher Education Funding Act 1988</i> and the Higher Education Contribution Scheme	May 1997

Consultations Held to Assist in Preparation of Reports

Australian Research Council

During 1996–97, members of the Australian Research Council and its Committees and Panels visited the following institutions. The visits served a dual purpose, providing an opportunity to meet with senior staff and researchers within an institution to discuss programme and policy issues (through open forum and individual meetings); and see at first hand the outcomes of research funding through the Council’s programmes (through meetings or laboratory visits).

Institutional Visits

Northern Territory University
The University of New South Wales
The University of Sydney
Macquarie University
Queensland University of Technology
Griffith University
The University of Queensland
The Australian National University
University of Canberra
The Australian Catholic University

Higher Education Council

Professional Education and Credentialism

Submissions

The Australian Institute of Building
Australian Nursing Council Inc.

Australian College of Midwives Inc.
Australasian Law Students Association (ALSA)
Heads of Architecture Schools of Australasia
The Institute of Actuaries of Australia
The Australian Institute of Welfare & Community Workers
The Australian Psychological Society Ltd
Faculty of Law, The Australian National University
Australian Resource Educators' Association (AREA)
Architects Accreditation Council of Australia (AACA)
Australian Council for Adult Literacy
Confederation of Australian Critical Care Nurses, WA Branch
Confederation of Australian Critical Care Nurses
Confederation of Australian Critical Care Nurses Vic Inc
Confederation of Australian Critical Care Nurses NSW Inc
Australian Society of CPAs
School of Behavioural Sciences, LaTrobe University
Law Council of Australia
School of Communication Disorders, LaTrobe University
The New South Wales College of Nursing
The Royal Australian Chemical Institute (RACI)
Victoria University of Technology
NSW Vocational Education and Training Accreditation Board
Faculty of Law, University of Wollongong
University of Wollongong
Australian Physiotherapy Association
Australian Teaching Council
Australian Institute of Quantity Surveyors
The Institute of Chartered Accountants in Australia
Australian Association of Social Workers Ltd
Architects Board of Western Australia
National Tertiary Education Industry Union
The Institution of Engineers Australia
Australian Medical Council
Royal Australian Institute of Architects
New South Wales Bar Association
Australasian Institute of Mining and Metallurgy
Australian Institute of Management
Bond University

Sydney Seminars 4 July 1996

John Crowe, Director, Industrial Liaison, University of Technology, Sydney
Mr Alan Blewitt, The Institute of Chartered Accountants in Australia
Ms Rhonda Traversi, Manager, Professional Development, Australian Society of CPAs
Professor Graeme Harrison, Head, Accounting, Macquarie University
Professor John Pollard, School of Economic and Financial Studies, Macquarie University
Mr L Pincott, Executive Director, Australian Medical Association
Mr Tony Smith, Faculty of Medicine & Health Sciences, The University of Newcastle
Professor Jim Lawrence, Faculty of Medicine, The University of Sydney
Professor Syd Lovibond, The University of New South Wales
Professor Beryl Hesheth, Acting Head, School of Behavioural Sciences, Macquarie University
Professor Kevin McConkey, Head, School of Psychology, The University of New South Wales
Ms Cheryl Cordery, The New South Wales College of Nursing
Ms Anna Kettle, Nurses Registration Board of NSW
Ms Debra Shirley, Nurses Registration Board of NSW
Ms Sue Cameron, Chief Executive Officer, Australian Nursing Council Inc.
Professor Elizabeth Cameron-Traub, Dean, Faculty of Nursing, University of Technology, Sydney
Ms Kelly Wright, The New South Wales Bar Association
Ms Margaret Hole, The Law Society of New South Wales
Mr Neville Carter, The Law Society of New South Wales
Ms Donna Bain, The Law Society of New South Wales
Mr Christopher Roper, Director, Centre for Legal Education
Ms Ronwyn North, Centre for Legal Education
Ms Amber Cerny, Australasian Law Students Association
Ms Tara Knovel, Australasian Law Students Association
Professor Phillip Burgess, Faculty of Law, The University of New South Wales
Professor John Goldring, Faculty of Law, University of Wollongong
Assoc Professor Ainslie Lamb, Faculty of Law, University of Wollongong
Ms Penelope Pether, Faculty of Law, The University of Sydney
Mr Mark Brown, Australian Physiotherapy Association NSW
Ms Elfreda Marshall, Head, School of Physiotherapy, The University of Sydney

Melbourne Seminars 5 July 1996

Professor Peter Phelan, The University of Melbourne
Mr Paul Woodhouse, Australian Medical Association
Ms Ann Johns, Director, Education & Membership, Australian Society of CPAs
Professor Allen Russell, Faculty of Business & Economics, Monash University
Mr Grant Gay, Faculty of Business & Economics, Monash University
Mr Ian Dunn, Executive Director, Law Institute of Victoria
Assoc Professor Malcolm Dorricott, The Australian Institute of Mining and Metallurgy
Professor Frank Lawson, Faculty of Engineering, Monash University
Ms Susan Scott, National Manager (Education), Royal Australian Institute of Architects
Mr Jeff Keddie, Registrar, Architects Registration Board of Victoria
Professor R J King, Dean, Faculty of Architecture & Planning, The University of Melbourne
Professor Angela Scollary, Australian Computer Society
Mr Gerry Maynard, Director, Membership Board, Australian Computer Society
Mr Daryl Greaves, President, Australian Resource Educators Assoc
Ms Anne Pringle, Australian Resource Educators Assoc
Professor Virginia Studdert, The University of Melbourne
Ms Leanne Raven, Executive Officer, Nurses Board of Victoria
Ms Sue Wylie, Professional Officer, Australian Nursing Federation, Victoria
Dr Jenny Oates, Head of School, Department of Communication Disorders, La Trobe University
Mr Andrew Remenyi, School of Behavioural Sciences, La Trobe University
Dr Alison Garton, Executive Director, The Australian Psychological Society
Mr Ian Murray, National President, Australian Institute of Welfare and Community Workers
Professor Greg O'Brien, Dean, Faculty of Social Sciences, La Trobe University
Professor Joan McMeeken, Head, School of Physiotherapy, The University of Melbourne
Ms Julieanne Webb, School of Physiotherapy, The University of Melbourne
Ms Rebecca Allen, National Office of Australian Association of Occupational Therapists
Ms Maureen Webb, Australian Physiotherapy Association

A Review of Institutional Use of Commonwealth Higher Education Funding for Indigenous Australian Students

Perth 25 September 1996

Professor Paige Porter, The University of Western Australia
Ms Jill Milroy, The University of Western Australia
Mr Dennis Ham, Curtin University of Technology
Ms Pick Oo, Curtin University of Technology
Mr Ken McCluskey, Curtin University of Technology
Mr John Mallard, Curtin University of Technology
Assoc Coordinator, Curtin University of Technology
Professor Neil Tuckwell, Edith Cowan University
Professor Ian Malcolm, Edith Cowan University
Assoc Prof Simon Forrest, Edith Cowan University
Mr Richard McWilliam, Murdoch University
Ms Robyn Daniels, Murdoch University
Ms Jade Maddox, Murdoch University
Ms Nellie Green, Murdoch University
Mr Maurice Agale, National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Student Network
Reverend Cedric Jacobs, Chair, Aboriginal Education and Training Council
Mr Alan Marshall, WA Office of Higher Education

Adelaide 8 October 1996

Professor David Robinson, University of South Australia
Professor Colin Bourke, University of South Australia
Assoc Professor Eleanor Bourke, University of South Australia
Ms Deb Tranter, University of South Australia
Ms Susan Close, The University of Adelaide
Ms Mercy Glastonbury, The University of Adelaide
Mr Simon Brennan, The University of Adelaide
Professor Anne Edwards, The Flinders University of South Australia
Professor Faith Trent, The Flinders University of South Australia
Mr Bevin Wilson, The Flinders University of South Australia

A delegation of Indigenous Australian students from South Australian universities.

Darwin 8–9 October 1996

Professor R McKay, Northern Territory University
Assoc Professor Robyn Young, Northern Territory University
Assoc Professor Isaac Brown, Northern Territory University
Ms Margie Cole, Northern Territory University
Professor Marcia Langton, Northern Territory University
Ms Teresa Caldwell, Northern Territory University
Ms Helen Burgess, Northern Territory University
Mr Florent Alcidi, Northern Territory University
Mr John Ingram, Director, Bachelor College
Mr John Henry, Assistant Director, Bachelor College

A delegation of Indigenous Australian students from the Northern Territory University.

Melbourne 9 October 1996

Professor Geoff Beeson, Deakin University, Rusden Campus
Dr Mike Stokie, Deakin University, Geelong Campus
Ms Wendy Brabham, Deakin University, Geelong Campus
Ms Karen Jackson, Victoria University of Technology
Dr Mary Emison, The University of Melbourne
Mr Barry Judd, The University of Melbourne
Ms Cathy Adams, Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology

A delegation of Indigenous Australian students from Victorian universities.

Melbourne 10 October 1996

Ms Elizabeth Anderson, Monash University
Ms Helen Curzon-Siggers, Monash University
Ms Sharon Firebrace, Monash University
Ms Liz Shave, Swinburne University of Technology
Professor S Bambrick, La Trobe University
Ms Julie Andrews, La Trobe University
Mr Waddah Eltchelebi, La Trobe University, Bendigo
Ms Mary Hickey, University of Ballarat
Mr Larry Kanoa, University of Ballarat
Ms Sue Atkinson, Swinburne University of Technology

Canberra 11 October 1996

Dr Shirley Campbell, The Australian National University
Ms Mary McCullagh, The Australian National University
Ms Judith Pabian, The Australian National University
Professor D Aitkin, University of Canberra
Ms Anne McMahon, University of Canberra
Mr Freeman Wyllie, University of Canberra
Ms Dianne Coward, University of Canberra
Ms Suzanne O'Neill, University of Canberra
Ms Yodi Batske, University of Canberra
Mr Terry Williams, Student Association, University of Canberra

Hobart 11 October 1996

Professor Rudi Lidl, University of Tasmania
Professor Malcolm Waters, University of Tasmania
Mr Greg Lehman, University of Tasmania
Dr Andries Onsman, University of Tasmania
Ms Caroline Spotswood, University of Tasmania

A delegation of Indigenous Australian students from the University of Tasmania.

Brisbane 14 October 1996

Professor Muredach Dynan, The Australian Catholic University
Ms Nereda White, The Australian Catholic University
Ms Noela Hall, The Australian Catholic University
Ms Suellen Scroope, The Australian Catholic University
Assoc Prof Cindy Shannon, The University of Queensland
Mr Michael Williams, The University of Queensland
Mr Les Watago, The University of Queensland
Prof Margaret Gardner, Griffith University
Assoc Prof Marilyn McMeniman, Griffith University
Ms Boni Robertson, Griffith University
Dr Eve Fesl, Griffith University
Mr Monty Montague-Elliott, Student Union, Griffith University
Ms Penny Tripcony, Queensland University of Technology
Mr Ian Hawke, Queensland University of Technology
Ms Sherrie Collins, Queensland University of Technology
Ms Tania Armstrong, Queensland University of Technology

Ms Lisa Gilligan, Queensland University of Technology

National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Student Network

Mr Wayne Costelloe, Chair

Ms Eileen Thacker, Secretary

Ms Catherine Stokes, Disability Representative

Sydney 14 October 1996

Ms Josie Castles, University of Wollongong

Assoc Professor Bill Harrison, University of Wollongong

Professor John Ramsland, The University of Newcastle

Assoc Prof Tracey Bunda, The University of Newcastle

Ms Cheryl Newton, The University of Newcastle

Ms Deidre Heitmeyer, The University of Newcastle

Assoc Professor Bob Perry, University of Western Sydney, Macarthur

Ms Janice Dennis, University of Western Sydney, Nepean

Ms Pearl Wymarra Bond, University of Western Sydney, Hawkesbury

Ms Leonie Ligertwood, University of Western Sydney, Macarthur

Ms Anne Flood, University of Western Sydney, Macarthur

A delegation of Indigenous Australian students from New South Wales universities.

Brisbane 15 October 1996

Mr Colin Lambert, University of Southern Queensland

Assoc Professor Gracelyn Smallwood, University of Southern Queensland

Mr John McMaster, University of Southern Queensland

A delegation of Indigenous Australian students from Queensland universities.

Sydney 15 October 1996

Assoc Prof D Hewitt, The Australian Catholic University

Mr K Ralph, The Australian Catholic University

Ms Tracey Hill, Macquarie University

Mr Sam Altman, Macquarie University

Ms Janet Mooney, The University of Sydney

Dr Kathleen Clapham, The University of Sydney

Mr Bob Morgan, University of Technology, Sydney

Professor Tony Wicken, The University of New South Wales

Ms Anne Martin, The University of New South Wales

A delegation of Indigenous Australian students from The University of New South Wales.

NSW/ACT Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Higher Education Network

Ms Wendy Brady

Dr Shirley Campbell

Ms Tracey Hill

Ms Janet Mooney

Rockhampton 16 October 1996

Professor Bob Breakspere, Central Queensland University

Professor Dave Birch, Central Queensland University

Professor Ian Goulter, Central Queensland University

Ms Lyn Nichols, Central Queensland University

Mr Neil Mankivell, Central Queensland University

Mr Beresford Domic, Central Queensland University

Ms Gail Burling, Central Queensland University

Ms Lynette Anderson, Central Queensland University

Ms Katie Kiss, Central Queensland University

Ms Clare Stehbens, Central Queensland University

A delegation of Indigenous Australian students from the Central Queensland University.

Townsville 17 October 1996

Dr Martyn Forrest, James Cook University of North Queensland

Professor Tony Hassell, James Cook University of North Queensland

Professor Rhondda Jones, James Cook University of North Queensland

Ms Gloria MacDonald, James Cook University of North Queensland

Dr Arthur Smith, James Cook University of North Queensland

Mr Dana Ober, James Cook University of North Queensland

Mr Adrian Miller, James Cook University of North Queensland

Ms Maria Pappalardo, James Cook University of North Queensland

Ms Stephanie Gilbert, James Cook University of North Queensland

A delegation of Indigenous Australian students from the James Cook University of North Queensland.

Bathurst 17 October 1996

Professor Cliff Blake, Charles Sturt University
Professor Bryan Rothwell, Charles Sturt University
Mr Bernie O'Donnell, Charles Sturt University
Ms Robyn Riley, Charles Sturt University
Ms Barbara Hill, Charles Sturt University
Mr Laurie Crawford, Charles Sturt University
Mr Linton Howarth, Charles Sturt University

A delegation of Indigenous Australian students from the Charles Sturt University.

Lismore 18 October 1996

Professor Harry Hyland, Southern Cross University
Prof Stephen Schnierer, Southern Cross University
Mr Noel Blomeley, Southern Cross University
Ms Tracey Thomas, Southern Cross University
Ms Leanne Emzin, Southern Cross University

A delegation of Indigenous Australian students from the Southern Cross University.

Written submission provided by The University of New England.

Quality in Resource-based Learning

Invited participants in the Quality in Resource Based Learning Forum held in Melbourne in February 1997, who also provided survey information

Shirley Alexander, Director, Institute of Interactive Multimedia, University of Technology, Sydney
Associate Professor Darryl Nation, Sociology, Monash University, Gippsland Campus
Dr Ian Barnard, Executive Director, Charles Sturt University
Maree Gosper, Lecturer, Macquarie University
Associate Professor Ted Nunan, University of South Australia
John Winship, Director, Computer Centre, Curtin University of Technology
Richard James, The University of Melbourne
Jim Beck, Executive Director, P.A.G.E., Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology
Graeme Knox, Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology
John Pittman, Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology
Dr Carmel McNaught, Academic Development Unit, La Trobe University

Professor Jocelyn Calvert, Deakin University
Professor Robert Boyd, Director, Centre for Academic Development,
Deakin University
Professor Richard Johnson, The Australian National University
Ms Phoebe Palmieri, Ivanhoe, Melbourne
Ms Jennifer Hand, Higher Education Council
Mr Robert Bluer, Northcote, Melbourne
Ms Yvette Devlin, Department of Employment, Education, Training and
Youth Affairs
Mr Ed Brumby, Director, Learning Resources Services, Deakin University

Achieving Quality Outcomes in Higher Education

*Participants in the Higher Education Council consultations on Quality
Improvement and Assurance, 10-14 March 1997*

Professor Doug Mc Eachern, Acting Deputy Vice Chancellor, The
University of Adelaide
Professor Muredach Dynan, Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Quality Assurance), The
Australian Catholic University
Mr Richard Clifford, Quality Manager, The Australian Catholic University
Mr Bob Arthur, Registrar, The Australian National University
Mr Chris Hogan, Head, Planning Services Office, The Australian National
University
Professor Stephen Kemmis, Deputy Vice Chancellor (Operations) University
of Ballarat
Professor Philip Candy, Deputy Vice Chancellor (Scholarships), University
of Ballarat
Ms Pat Mann, Manager, Planning Services, University of Ballarat
Mr Robert Hook, Director, Financial and Resource Services, University of
Ballarat
Mr Don Maconachie, Senior Policy Officer, University of Ballarat
Dr Barry Cameron, Manager, Academic Services Division, University of
Canberra
Ms Christine Wise, Policy Advisor to the Vice Chancellor, University of
Canberra
Mr Bruce Zimmer, Manager Analysis and Planning, Central Queensland
University
Professor Ian Goulter, Pro-Vice-Chancellor, Central Queensland University
Associate Professor Colleen Liston, Director, Quality, Curtin University of
Technology
Mr Dennis Ham, Director, Planning and Statistics, Curtin University of
Technology

Professor Bob Boyd, Executive Director, Academic Planning and Quality Group, Deakin University

Professor Jocelyn Calvert, Professor of Distance Education, Deakin University

Dr John Bottomly, Policy and Planning Analyst, Deakin University

Professor Brian Lawrence, Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Edith Cowan University

Mr Warren Snell, Executive Director (Administration), Edith Cowan University

Professor Anne Edwards, Deputy Vice Chancellor, The Flinders University of South Australia

Professor Max Standage, Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Science, Quality), Griffith University

Mr Colin McAndrew, Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Administration), Griffith University

Dr Lyn Holman, Academic Registrar, Griffith University

Professor Rhondda Jones, Deputy Vice-Chancellor, James Cook University

Professor Graham McDowell, Deputy Vice Chancellor, La Trobe University

Professor Susan Bambrick, Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Academic Programs and Access), La Trobe University

Professor John Loxton, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic), Macquarie University

Mr Ian Marshman, Academic Registrar, The University of Melbourne

Associate Professor Liz Harman, President, Academic Council, Murdoch University

Ms Jane Powell, Planning Manager, Murdoch University

Professor Grant Harman, Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Research), The University of New England

Associate Professor Jane Morrison, Pro-Vice-Chancellor, The University of New South Wales

Mr Terry Hand, Director, Corporate Planning and Quality Development, The University of New South Wales

Professor Keith Lester, Deputy Vice Chancellor, The University of Newcastle

Associate Professor Charles Webb, Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Research and International), Northern Territory University

Associate Professor Robyn Young, Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Higher Education), Northern Territory University

Ms Noelene Swanson, Quality Officer, Northern Territory University

Ms Margie Cole, Manager, Planning and Secretariat, Northern Territory University

Professor Ted Brown, Senior Deputy Vice Chancellor, The University of Queensland

Mr Stephen Pincus, Senior Planning Officer, Queensland University of Technology

Mr Peter May, Planning Manager, Queensland University of Technology
Dr Don Field, Director, Academic Policy and Programs, Queensland University of Technology
Professor Gail Hart, Director, Academic Staff Development, Queensland University of Technology
Dr Lawrence Stedman, Principal Policy Adviser, Office of the Deputy Vice Chancellor, Queensland University of Technology
Professor Roger Scott, Dean, Faculty of Arts, Queensland University of Technology
Ms Lin Martin, Director, Strategic and Financial Planning Group, Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology
Dr Michael Rowan, Acting Deputy Vice Chancellor, University of South Australia
Dr Robert Sumner, Manager, Planning, University of South Australia
Professor Angela Delves, Pro-Vice-Chancellor, Southern Cross University
Mr Steve Tanzer, Registrar, University of Southern Queensland
Mr Rob Carmichael, Head, Quality and Education Development, Swinburne University of Technology
Dr Raj Sharma, Manager, Planning and Information, Swinburne University of Technology
Professor Ken Eltis, Deputy Vice Chancellor (Planning and Resources), The University of Sydney
Mr Charles Davidson, Director, Planning Support Unit, The University of Sydney
Mr Nigel Ewan, Senior Executive Officer, Academic Secretariat, University of Tasmania
Associate Professor Geoff Scott, Coordinator, Quality Unit, University of Technology, Sydney
Ms Lenor Cooper, Director, Planning and Review Unit, University of Technology, Sydney
Professor Paul Clark, Deputy Vice Chancellor, Victoria University of Technology
Professor Alan Robson, Deputy Vice Chancellor, The University of Western Australia
Mr Peter Curtis, Deputy Registrar, The University of Western Australia
Professor Deryck Schreuder, Vice Chancellor and President, University of Western Sydney
Professor Genevieve Gray, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Planning), University of Western Sydney
Ms Rhonda Hawkins, Executive Policy Adviser, University of Western Sydney
Professor John Clark, Deputy Vice-Chancellor and UWS Hawkesbury President, University of Western Sydney
Professor Nigel Bond, Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Academic), University of Western Sydney

Appendix 8

Assoc Professor Virginia Nightingale, Dean, Faculty of Humanities and
Social Sciences, University of Western Sydney

Professor Christine Ewan, Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Academic), University of
Wollongong

Freedom of Information Act 1982 **(Section 8 Statement)**

Organisation, Functions and Address

Information outlining the organisation and functions of the Board and the Secretariat address are contained in Chapter 1.

Powers

Senior officers of the Secretariat have delegations under acts, regulations and determinations administered within the employment, education, training and youth affairs portfolio, including the Employment, Education and Training Act (the Act), as well as under other Commonwealth legislation.

In practice, the main type of delegated power held by officers relates to approval and payment of expenditure associated with administrative running costs or payment of grants for innovative projects.

The Board and its Councils are empowered under the Act to do all things necessary or convenient to be done in connection with the performance of their functions.

Arrangements for Outside Participation

The Board may consult with such persons, bodies or authorities as the Board thinks necessary.

Similarly, a Council may invite members of the public to make comments or submissions in relation to any matter referred to the Council by the Board or the Minister and may consult with the Consultative Committee and such persons, bodies or authorities as the Council thinks necessary.

The Board and Councils also have regard to any advice given by a Counsellor/Special Adviser.

The Board's *Annual Report* must include information on the persons, bodies and authorities (if any), consulted in the preparation of reports prepared either by the Board in response to matters referred by the Minister or by Councils in response to matters referred by the Minister or the Board.

In practice, the Board and its Councils consult with Commonwealth, State and Territory departments and agencies, government and non-government institutions and advisory bodies, industry groups, employer groups, unions, community groups, providers and consumers of education and training including the academic community, and other organisations and individuals.

Categories of Documents Maintained in Possession of the Board and its Secretariat

Board documents are open to public access as part of a public register or otherwise, in accordance with an enactment other than the *Freedom of Information Act 1982 Amendments 1991*:

- where that access is subject to a fee or charge
 - nil;
- available for purchase by the public
 - nil;
- available to the public free of charge on request
 - promotional brochures, booklets, forms, bulletins and tabled reports of the Board and Councils (except those sold through Commonwealth Government bookshops); and
- all other categories of documents not included in the above categories
 - internal administrative documents, contractual documents, artwork, files, reports, handbooks and registers.

Facilities and Procedures for Access to Documents

No requests for access to documents were received in 1996–97.

Inquiries regarding Freedom of Information may be made to the Director, National Board Secretariat. Applications should be in writing to the address listed in Chapter 1.

