

e-news



Department of Education,
Training and Youth Affairs

www.detya.gov.au

on higher education

Informing the Higher Education Sector—February 2001

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getting around

The front page of *e-news on higher education* features a set of icons that take you to the articles inside.

These icons are repeated at the bottom of every page, to guide you to other articles.

accessability

A HTML 'text-only' copy of e-news has been posted onto our website.

www.detya.gov.au/highered/enews

pages

Articles that run onto the next page have a 'forward' icon at the bottom right hand corner of the page. Select this icon to move forward one page. Subsequent pages will have a 'back' icon that you can use to go back.

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websites

e-news on higher education also has links to relevant websites. To access a website, simply click on the URL when the open hand cursor changes to a pointing hand.


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to exit

Don't have any menus to help you exit?

Select 'Esc' on your keyboard then close the window as per normal.

Note:

You can close the file *and* the application at the same time by selecting the top 'x'.

printing

Use the keystrokes of 'Ctrl P' to launch a print window. Remember, you can print all of the pages or choose to print current page.

or

Select 'Esc' on your keyboard. You will then have access to toolbars and menus and you can choose the 'print' icon.

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update on workplace reform

1st round recipients

Griffith University is the latest recipient of funding under the Workplace Reform Programme. Twenty three institutions have now been successful in receiving a first round grant under the programme.

Griffith University has demonstrated progress in a number of areas, including performance management, increasing productivity and cost savings, as well as in broader management and administration areas. Griffith University has made a strong commitment to workplace reform.

Funding under the Programme will be available for 18 months. Further funding will be available under the Programme to institutions which demonstrate a continued commitment to workplace reform.

New South Wales

The University of New South Wales
The University of Newcastle
The University of Sydney
University of Technology, Sydney
University of Wollongong

Victoria

Deakin University
La Trobe University
Monash University
Swinburne University of Technology
The University of Melbourne
University of Ballarat
Victorian College of the Arts

Queensland

Griffith University
Queensland University of Technology
The University of Queensland
University of Southern Queensland

Western Australia

The University of Western Australia

South Australia

The Flinders University of South Australia
The University of Adelaide
University of South Australia

Tasmania

Australian Maritime College

Northern Territory

Batchelor Institute of Indigenous Tertiary Education

Multi-State

Australian Catholic University

[www.detya.gov.au/highered/
programmes/workplace_reform/
default.htm](http://www.detya.gov.au/highered/programmes/workplace_reform/default.htm)

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tropical marine network

innovative bachelor degree in tropical marine science

Australia will secure its place as a leader in tropical marine science with the development of a new undergraduate degree by members of the Tropical Marine Network. The Minister for Education, Training & Youth Affairs, the Hon. Dr David Kemp, has approved funding of \$153 803 for the initiative being developed by members of the Network, including James Cook University, the University of Queensland, the University of Sydney, the Great Barrier Reef Research Foundation and the Australian Museum.

This collaboration will allow students to take part in leading edge education and training accessing the best expertise from each of the participating institutions. The institutions will benefit from the chance to share and develop expertise and will have the opportunity to develop enhanced education markets nationally and internationally.

Australia is uniquely placed to develop world-class courses in tropical marine science. This collaboration draws on some of the best teaching resources and marine environments Australia has to offer, with students able to study a marine environment across more than 10 degrees of latitude and across environments ranging from coastal to outer reef.

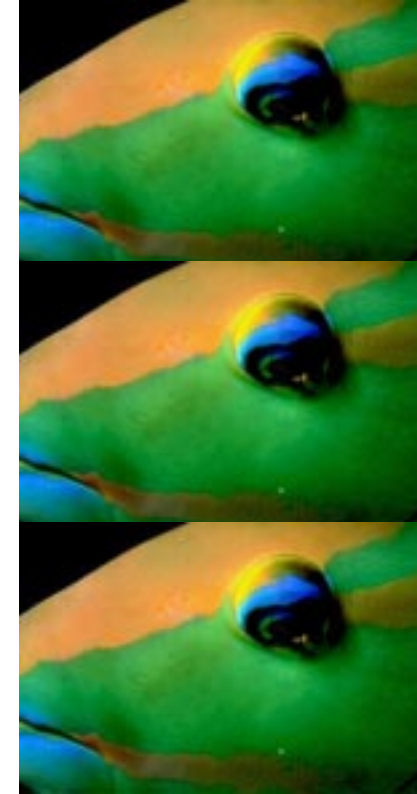
Students will initially enrol in one of the three 'home' universities (James Cook University, University of Queensland and the University of Sydney) and then will undertake a selection of field studies that take advantage of the breadth of marine environments and teaching expertise offered by this collaboration.

The course's unique features include:

- advanced learning via options taught by experts from several institutions;
- experience of the marine environment across 10 degrees of latitude and from the inner to the outer reef;
- students will participate in parts of the programme away from their home institution;
- scholarships and internships; and
- cross-institutional seminars.

The degree is expected to be in place for the beginning of the 2002 academic year.

www.barrierreef.org/research/tropical-marine-network.html



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graduate skills assessment

The Graduate Skills Assessment test has been developed under contract by the Australian Council for Educational Research (ACER) and tests generic skills in the four dimensions of written communication, problem solving, critical thinking and interpersonal understanding.

The first test for graduating students was administered in October/November of 2000 and the first test for commencing students is taking place in February/March 2001.

The project has developed and trialed a calibrated bank of items that have been compiled into assessment instruments. The test results may be used to enable students to verify their academic claims for acceptance into further study, as well as assist graduates to obtain employment. The tests also provide a means for measuring “value-adding” by universities (*i.e.* through the testing of students on entry and upon graduation). It is envisaged that the assessment instruments will not only help individual institutions and employers with the selection of graduates but will enable national and international benchmarking of graduate skills.

Stage 1 of the project will be completed by 31 July 2001 and a tender will shortly be advertised for Stage 2. During the second stage there will be further expansion of the item data bank, ongoing tests of reliability and validity. The successful tender will also administer the graduating student test in 2001, and both commencing and graduating student tests for the cycles in 2002–2004.

It is expected that the number of students participating in the test will grow and that ‘out-of-cycle’ applications of the test will be requested. There are early signs that there is a potential market for tests that build discipline-specific test items onto a core of GSA test items.

The project is part of the Government’s agenda for opening up student opportunity, assisting individual universities to improve the quality of what they do and helping the Australian higher education sector to remain internationally competitive.

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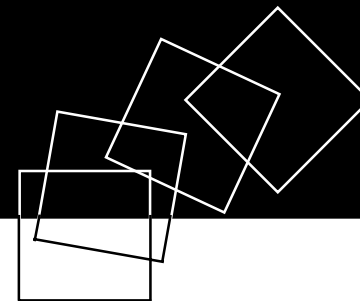
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recent releases

Engaging Universities and Regions: Knowledge contribution to regional economic development in Australia

This report is a follow-up to the 1998 report *Creative Associations in Special Places: Enhancing the Partnership Role of Universities in Building Competitive Regional Economies* (EIP Report 1998/4).

Engaging Universities continues the exploration of the university-region engagement from an economic development perspective. Engaging Universities analyses issues at campus level, where engagement is more noticeable and meaningful for those involved, rather than on a whole-of-institution basis as was the case with the first report.

Engaging Universities and Regions has been published in hard copy and on the Internet.

www.detya.gov.au/highered/eippubs/eip00_15/default.htm

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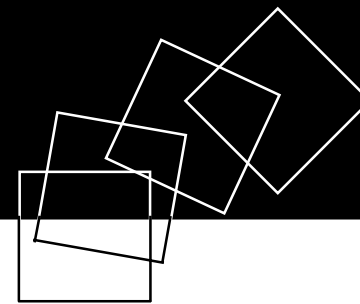
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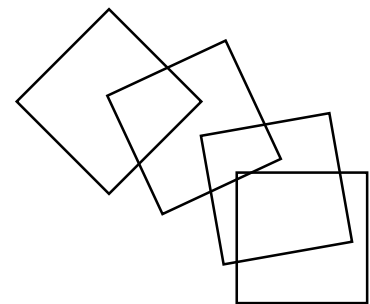


recent releases (continued)


Equity Plans for the 2000-2002 Triennium


The Equity Plans document the various strategies adopted by universities in their approach to equity. They are derived from universities' strategic planning documents and do not necessarily contain the same level of detail as universities' internal equity plans.

www.detya.gov.au/highered/pubs/equity00_02/index.htm



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Equity and the Use of Communications and Information Technology in Higher Education

This reports on an investigation into student access and equity issues associated with the use of communications and information technology at the University of Technology, Sydney.

The report examines differences in access to, and use of, communications and information technology between students from DETYA-defined equity groups and a control group in order to identify key issues for institutional and government policy makers. The report also develops a methodology for analysing access and equity issues in the use of communications and information technology.

Equity and the Use of Communications and Information Technology in Higher Education has been published in hard copy and on the Internet.

www.detya.gov.au/highered/eippubs/eip00_7/execsum.htm

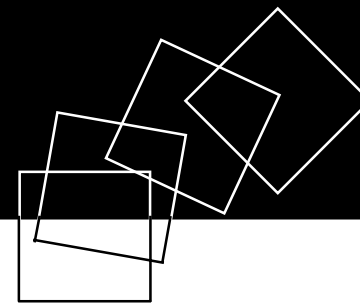
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due out soon

Enabling the Virtuous Cycle

Enabling the Virtuous Cycle explores the Will's Review finding that there are institutional barriers to university researchers becoming involved in new enterprises, particularly in relation to holding equity or directorships in those enterprises and in moving between academia and industry.

The study finds that research commercialisation policies are commonplace across Australian universities. It also finds that while there are few formal institutional barriers to research commercialisation, generally, and that such barriers can usually be bypassed, business process inefficiencies seriously impede research commercialisation.

It is anticipated that *Enabling the Virtuous Cycle* will be released in hard copy and on the Internet within the next week.

favourites

- **e-news on higher education (01)**
www.detya.gov.au/highered/enews/default.htm
- **Backing Australia's Ability**
www.innovation.gov.au/iap
- **Guidelines for the Application of Best Practice in Australian University Libraries** (Anne Wilson et al)
www.detya.gov.au/archive/highered/eippubs/eip00_11/execsum.htm
- **Best Practice Handbook for Australian University Libraries** (Anne Wilson et al)
www.detya.gov.au/archive/highered/eippubs/eip00_10/execsum.htm
- **Higher Education Report for the 2001 to 2003 Triennium** (pre-print release)
www.detya.gov.au/highered/he_report/2001_2003/

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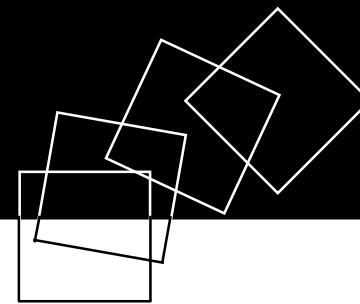
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internet versions

Most of our publications—from October 1996 onward—are available in full on the DETYA website at:

www.detya.gov.au/highered/repts.htm

hard copies

Copies of most of our publications can be purchased from AusInfo's Government Information Bookshops. Locations and contact details for the AusInfo bookshops are available at:

www.dofa.gov.au/infoaccess/infoaccess/ia_infoshops.htm

enquiries

General enquiries about publications can be emailed to

highered@detya.gov.au

web updates

DETYA's website has new information posted to it on a regular basis. You can keep up with changes via the Site Change Subscription Service (SCSS). This Service notifies subscribers of significant updates and additions to DETYA websites.

how it works

Interested parties need to register to the subscription service. Registration involves providing your email address and selecting the parts of DETYA's website you wish to be notified about.

what it does

Once registered, subscribers will be sent a weekly email (usually on Monday evenings) with a brief description of any changes and the address for such pages.

www.detya.gov.au/scss/

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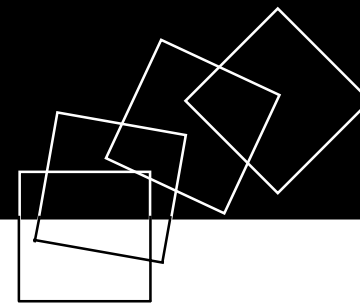
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