

# e-news



Department of Education,  
Training and Youth Affairs

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# on higher education

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Informing the Higher Education Sector—March 2001

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# navigating



## e-news

### 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.

### accessibility

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

[www.detya.gov.au/highered/enews](http://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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# QUALITY

## ASSURANCE IN HIGHER EDUCATION

An international conference on quality assurance in higher education is being held in Bangalore, India this week. The conference was arranged by the International Network for Quality Assurance Agencies in Higher Education (INQAAHE) in association with the National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC) of India.

The conference will provide a valuable opportunity to present the latest developments in Australia's quality assurance framework for higher education. It comes at a particularly good time in the history of Australia's relationship with India in education, as the Indian Ministry of Human Resource Development is considering policy to regulate the delivery of education in India by foreign universities.

The main theme of the conference is Quality, Standards and Recognition with four sub-themes:

- quality enhancement;

- meeting information needs;
- defining standards; and
- recognition standards.

Professor Paige Porter, Executive Dean, International Relations at the University of Western Australia, Professor Dean Forbes, Pro-Vice-Chancellor, International at the Flinders University of South Australia and Dr Tom Karmel from the Higher Education Division in the Department of Education, Training and Youth Affairs (DETYA) are attending the conference and presenting papers on the Australian higher education quality assurance framework.

Further information on the conference is available at:

[www.enigma.vsnu.nl/inqaahe/conference2001.htm](http://www.enigma.vsnu.nl/inqaahe/conference2001.htm)

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# Research Infrastructure Block Grants

In *Backing Australia's Ability – An Innovation Action Plan for the Future*, the Government announced that it would provide substantial additional funding to universities through the Research Infrastructure Block Grants (RIBG) Scheme.

Funding for university infrastructure provides support for those 'overhead' resources essential for delivering high quality research and training projects or programmes. It includes:

- the operation of facilities such as libraries, computing centres, animal houses, herbaria, and experimental farms;
- equipment purchase or hire, installation and maintenance;
- telecommunications; and
- salaries and services for support staff.

This initiative will maintain current levels of infrastructure support for Australian Competitive Grants (ACGs)—approximately 20 cents of RIBG funding for each ACG dollar. RIBG assists the successful completion of ACG projects by contributing to the 'overhead' expenses which are not covered through the ACG itself.

ACGs are research grants provided by a range of Commonwealth and other agencies. The grants are allocated through competitive selection processes which meet criteria determined by DETYA. ACGs include National Health and Medical Research Council and Australian Research Council grants, which are receiving substantial funding increases through the Innovation Action Plan and other Government initiatives.

The additional RIBG funding arising from the Innovation Action Plan will be:

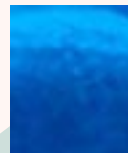
- \$46.0 million in 2001–2002;
- \$86.9 million in 2002–2003;
- \$108.7 million in 2003–2004;
- \$130.1 million in 2004–2005;
- \$146.2 million in 2005–2006.

[www.detya.gov.au/highered/research/ribgs.htm](http://www.detya.gov.au/highered/research/ribgs.htm)

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# Science lectureships

Wouldn't it be good if universities could:

- prepare graduates to move easily into new industries, like the internet workforce and some fields of biotechnology;
- assist professionals to keep up to date in rapidly changing fields of science and technology, like the mining industry, primary industry and pharmaceuticals;
- involve industry more closely in the teaching and learning activities of science faculties through the development of case studies and simulations, industry lectures and work placements with industry mentors;
- encourage school students and university graduates to consider science as an exciting and rewarding career path through outreach programmes to schools and within university orientation programmes; and

- combine the latest science with business and entrepreneurial skills to develop new business and industry.

Universities and their industry partners, and a number of other peak organisations are doing this now through the 28 projects funded through the Science Lectureships Initiative.

Have a look at some of the websites to see the range of projects:

[escience.anu.edu.au](http://escience.anu.edu.au)

[www.step.flinders.edu.au](http://www.step.flinders.edu.au)

[www.biotech.usyd.edu.au](http://www.biotech.usyd.edu.au)

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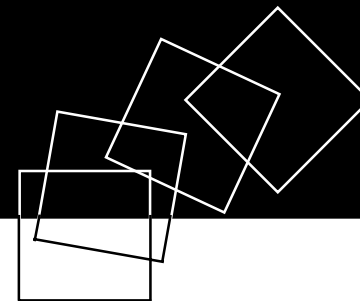
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## and websites



- due out soon
- favourites
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### due out soon

#### *The Emergence of Entrepreneurial Public Universities in Australia*

*The Emergence of Entrepreneurial Public Universities in Australia* is the text of a paper presented to the Institutional Management in Higher Education General Conference of the OECD in September 2000.

The paper traces the policy settings and organisational changes associated with the growth of self-earned income by Australian public universities since the mid-1980s. Two phases of university-state interaction are observed, the first pulling away from traditional academic orientations; the second pushing towards stronger market influences. Shifts in the composition of earned income are described. Key features are outlined regarding changes to the orientation and organisation of universities in their transformation as commercially managed enterprises, contributors to the national innovation system and producers of graduates with

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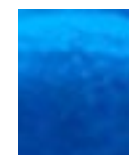
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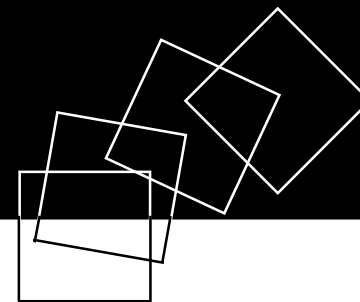
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### due out soon (continued)

explicitly defined capabilities. Several environmental factors influencing the form of universities are discussed together with some features of the strategic responses of leading universities. Finally, observations are made on changes emerging in university–state relations.

#### **The Australian Higher Education Quality Assurance Framework**

*The Australian Higher Education Quality Assurance Framework* provides an overview of quality assurance in the Australian higher education sector. It begins by considering the development of higher education quality assurance in Australia, particularly through the 1990s before outlining Australia's current multi-faceted quality assurance framework. It covers the various roles of the higher education sector, the Commonwealth, State and Territory Governments, as well as two joint Government initiatives: the Australian Qualifications Framework and the Australian Universities Quality Agency.

### favourites

- **Country Education Profiles: Australia**  
[www.detya.gov.au/noosr/cep/australia/index.htm](http://www.detya.gov.au/noosr/cep/australia/index.htm)
- **e-news on higher education**  
[www.detya.gov.au/highered/eneews](http://www.detya.gov.au/highered/eneews)
- **Backing Australia's Ability**  
[www.innovation.gov.au/iap](http://www.innovation.gov.au/iap)
- **Higher Education Report for the 2001 to 2003 Triennium**  
[www.detya.gov.au/highered/he\\_report/2001\\_2003](http://www.detya.gov.au/highered/he_report/2001_2003)

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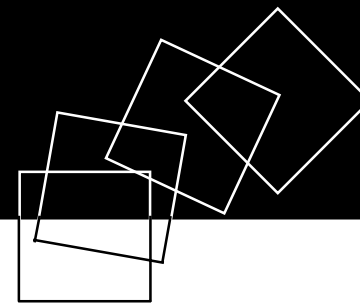
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## websites, links & updates

### websites

Main page for DETYA's Higher Education Division  
[www.detya.gov.au/highered](http://www.detya.gov.au/highered)

HECS—Higher Education Contribution Scheme  
[www.hecs.gov.au](http://www.hecs.gov.au)

Which Course? Which University?  
[www.detya.gov.au/tenfields](http://www.detya.gov.au/tenfields)

National Office of Overseas Skills Recognition  
[www.detya.gov.au/noosr](http://www.detya.gov.au/noosr)

### links

*Higher Education Links* can help you access ...

- Australian State and Territory Education Departments
- Australian Education Organisations
- Australian Universities
- Australian Universities - Admissions Centres
- Careers Information
- MCEETYA
- Overseas Universities and Organisations
- Research Organisations

[www.detya.gov.au/highered/links.htm](http://www.detya.gov.au/highered/links.htm)

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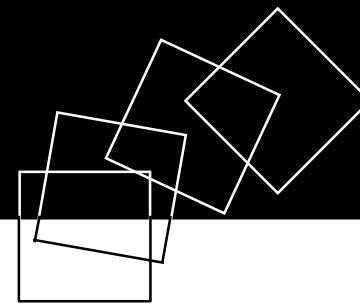
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### updates

DETYA's website has new information posted to it on a regular basis. You can keep up with changes via the free 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.

At [www.detya.gov.au](http://www.detya.gov.au) select *Site Change Subscription Service*

## to grab a copy

#### 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](http://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](http://www.dofa.gov.au/infoaccess/infoaccess/ia_infoshops.htm)

#### enquiries

General enquiries about publications can be emailed to

[highered@detya.gov.au](mailto:highered@detya.gov.au)

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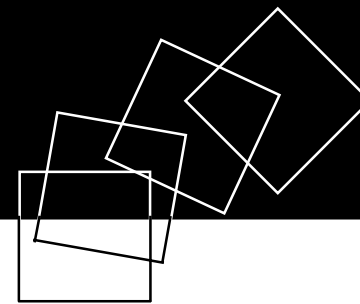
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## contact

### e-news on higher education editorial enquiries

Sharon Pratt

tel: 02 6240 7975

fax: 02 6123 6355

email: [highered@detya.gov.au](mailto:highered@detya.gov.au)

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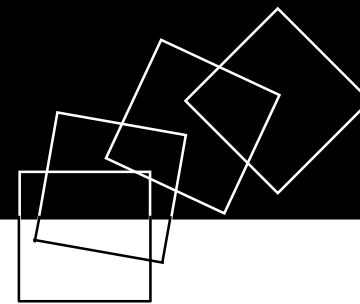
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