

e-news

on

higher

education



Department of Education,
Training and Youth Affairs

www.detya.gov.au

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Informing the Higher Education Sector—June 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.

accessibility

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

www.detya.gov.au/highered/enews

pages

You can also navigate through the pages using the *forward* & *back* buttons on the right of the page.

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.

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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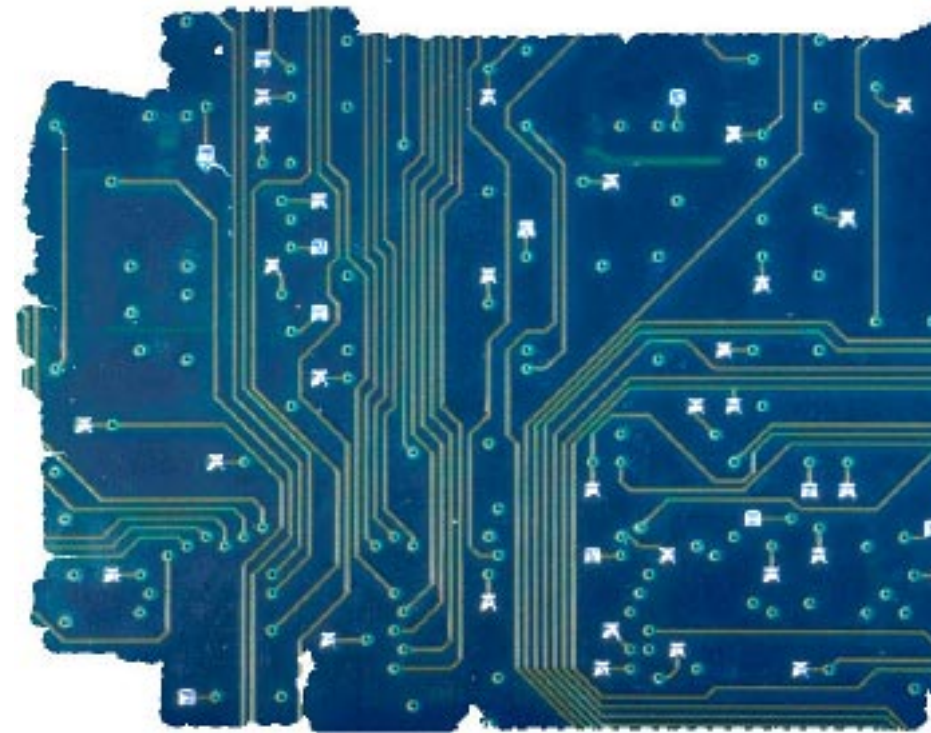
Over 80 delegates from more than twenty countries attended the 7th OECD/Japan Seminar on E-Learning in Post-Secondary Education in Tokyo on 5-6 June. The conference was co-hosted by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), the Japanese Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT, formerly MONBUSHO) and the National Institute of Multimedia Education (NIME).

Australia was recognised at the conference as being in the forefront of e-learning developments, building on this country's strong base and tradition of distance education, as well as being a leading exporter of education.

Recent reforms in Japan will allow Japanese students to study all 124 credits required for an undergraduate degree via the internet from the beginning of the

2001 financial year. Japanese universities are also now permitted to recognise credits from internet-based education courses offered by overseas institutions. This provides a great opportunity for Australian universities to explore the possibility of offering e-learning units to Japanese students.

The OECD also promoted debate on trade in educational services and the moves by the World Trade Organisation (WTO) in this area. The OECD identified Australia (based on 1999 data) as the most competitive exporter of educational services in the world.



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Debate on the growing trade in educational services raised a number of issues including:

- should there be an international quality framework;
- how governments should regulate foreign providers, in the absence of such a framework;
- whether international student mobility will fall as a result of e-learning;
- should universities protect their intellectual property rights or make their materials freely available like the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT); and
- whether such trade will pose a threat to cultural values.

Shortly before the conference the OECD launched a new paper called E-Learning: The Partnership Challenge, which is available from their website:

www.oecd.org/cer/obj2/ict/about.htm

Further information on the conference, including conference papers, can be found at:

www.oecd.org/cer/obj3/meetings.htm#1

Papers and a conference summary will be added to the site over the coming weeks.

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Learning outcomes and curriculum development

AUSTRALIAN
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TEACHING
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autc

www.autc.gov.au

The Australian Universities Teaching Committee (AUTC) contributes to the Government's commitment to promoting quality and excellence in university teaching and learning in Australia. E-news is progressively covering all of the projects currently receiving AUTC funding. This issue's article relates to "*Learning outcomes and curriculum development in law*".

This project attempts to identify the extent to which innovations in teaching and learning and in curriculum development and review have responded to the needs of both students and employers. It also seeks to assess the impact of significant changes which have occurred over the last decade. These changes include:

- the development and adoption of nationally recognized admission and rights of practice procedures;

- the growth of international practices across a range of jurisdictions;
- the increasing number of specialisations within law;
- a growing emphasis on the deployment of alternative means of dispute resolution and judicial case management in litigation;
- the wide ranging impact of the new communication and information technologies on legal practice; and
- a significant increase in law student numbers overall, and in the variety of teaching methods and specialist fields offered within the general discipline of law.

The project is being undertaken by a consortium comprising seven deans of Australian law schools and the Managing Director of the College of Law Pty Ltd. It is chaired by Professor Paul Raymond (University of New South Wales). The first stage of this project is due for completion in December 2001.

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Regional Disability Liaison Officers

RDLO Workshop

The Department of Education, Training and Youth Affairs (DETYA) hosted a workshop in Canberra for Regional Disability Liaison Officers (RDLOs) on 5-6 June.

The workshop provided a useful opportunity for RDLOs to exchange information and to inform Government on their successes in supporting people with disabilities gain access to tertiary education and in promoting employment outcomes for graduates.

More information on the expansion of the RDLO initiative and the grant of \$80 000 to each of 10 universities to host RDLOs this year can be found in e-news 08.

www.detya.gov.au/highered/enews

RDLOs provide advice and support for people with disabilities in accessing tertiary education and helping them in their transition from education to employment.

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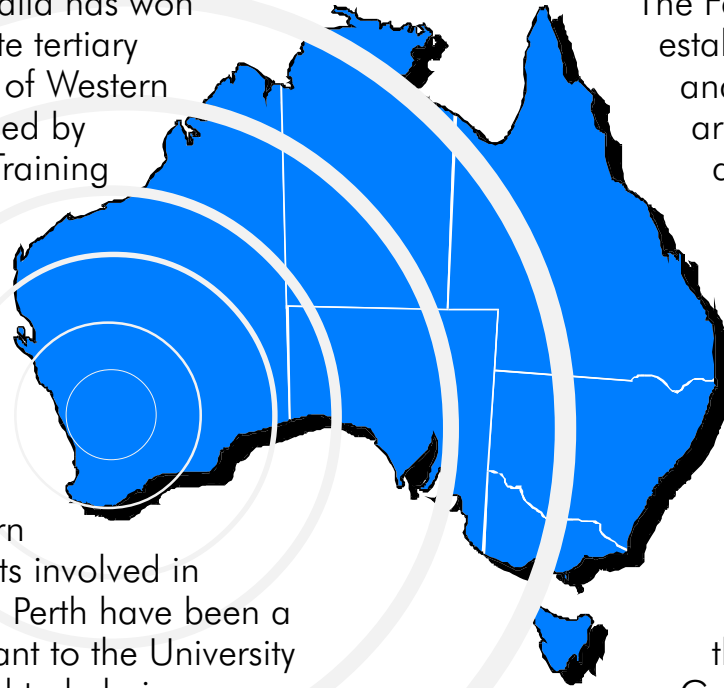


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Improving participation for tertiary studies in Western Australia

The University of Western Australia has won a grant of \$135 000 to facilitate tertiary studies in the Mid-West Region of Western Australia. The funding is provided by the Department of Education, Training and Youth Affairs (DETYA) to support infrastructure and the appointment of a Facilitator of Tertiary Studies for the mid-west region.

E-news 08 included an article on access to tertiary studies in the Mid-West Region of Western Australia and how the high costs involved in sending prospective students to Perth have been a barrier to participation. This grant to the University of Western Australia is designed to help improve access and opportunities for students in the region.



The Facilitator's primary role will be to: establish demand for courses; facilitate and publicise articulation arrangements between universities and the Central West College of TAFE in Geraldton; disseminate information to people in the region about university study opportunities; and negotiate with universities for regional access to university courses.

A Mid-West Higher Education Community Advisory Group will be established to assist the Facilitator. The group will represent the major education entities in Geraldton, with representation from Indigenous interests and industry groups.

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GSA for DETYA recruitment

The Graduate Skills Assessment (GSA) test is being used by the Department of Education, Training and Youth Affairs (DETYA) as part of a general selection process for staff at the middle management level. One of the uses envisaged for the GSA was to assist in recruitment processes by helping employers assess the skills of recent graduates. DETYA's use of the GSA in its recruitment process is the first full-scale application by an employer.

So far the GSA has been used to test graduating students in October/November 2000 and commencing students early this year. Testing at both

ends of a student's university study programme will allow the university to estimate the value of the university experience in developing skills in the four areas of problem solving, critical thinking, interpersonal skills and writing.

More information on the GSA and how, why and by whom it was developed can be found in e-news 02.

For further information on this project you can contact Peggy Spratt at:

peggy.spratt@detya.gov.au.

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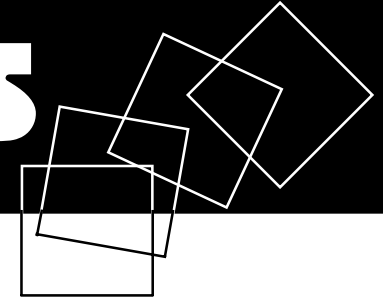
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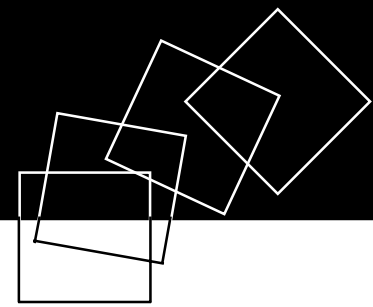
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recently released

Validating Scholarship in University Teaching (EIP 01/3)

Validating Scholarship in University Teaching reports on the first stage of the trial of a national scheme for independent expert review of teaching and learning resources which were developed using information and communication technologies. The report provides a valuable discussion on the benefits of a national scheme: how it might be developed, and the resources needed to assist producers and reviewers to participate in the trial. Stage two of the trial is currently underway.

The discussion and resources in the report are the product of Dr Peter Taylor and his team from Griffith University, and incorporate the results of a workshop held at Griffith University involving academics from a large number of universities, editors of academic journals in engineering, nursing and management, and senior university managers.

Validating Scholarship in University Teaching is available from DETYA in both hard copy and electronic format.

www.detya.gov.au/highered/eippubs/eip01_3/default.htm

The 1999 Postgraduate Research Experience Questionnaire (EIP 01/4)

This report provides an overview on the development of the Postgraduate Research Experience Questionnaire (PREQ) and details of the results of the first full national survey of graduates of research-based postgraduate degrees.

The PREQ was designed to provide information on the educational experiences of students in higher research degree courses in Australian institutions. It

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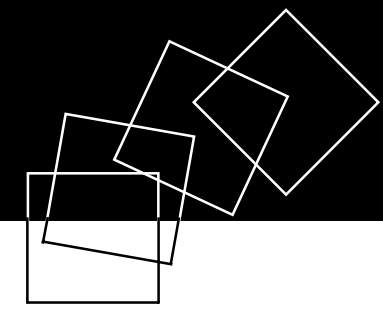
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The 1999 Postgraduate Research Experience Questionnaire (continued)

has a number of potential uses: providing a national overview of broad issues; setting a context against which institutions might undertake their own analyses; and identifying examples of good practice.

The current (1999) version of the PREQ was developed by the Australian Council for Educational Research and the Graduate Careers Council of Australia. The 1999 Postgraduate Research Experience Questionnaire is available in both hard copy and electronic format.

www.detya.gov.au/highered/eippubs/eip01_4/default.htm

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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

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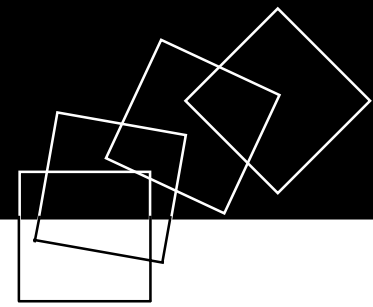
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Main page for DETYA's Higher Education Division
www.detya.gov.au/highered

HECS—Higher Education Contribution Scheme
www.hecs.gov.au

Which Course? Which University?
www.detya.gov.au/tenfields

National Office of Overseas Skills Recognition
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
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www.detya.gov.au/highered/links.htm

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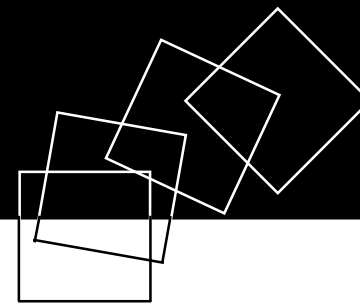
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favourites

- *Atlas of Higher Education: A community focus*
www.detya.gov.au/uniatlas
- e-news on higher education
www.detya.gov.au/highered/eneews
- *Backing Australia's Ability*
www.innovation.gov.au/iap
- *Staff 2000, Selected Higher Education Statistics*
www.detya.gov.au/highered/statpubs.htm

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 select *Site Change Subscription Service*

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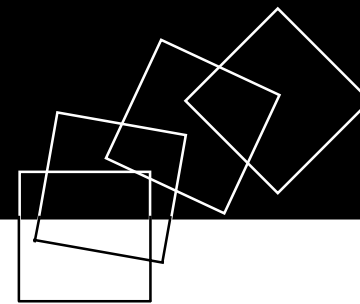
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The views expressed in this report do not necessarily reflect the views of the Department of Education, Training and Youth Affairs.

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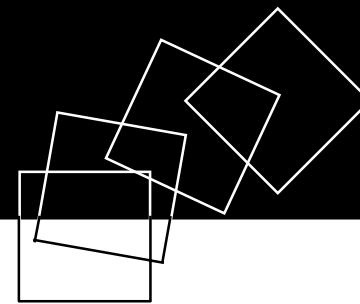
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