

e-news

on

higher

education



Department of Education,
Training and Youth Affairs

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Informing the Higher Education Sector—July 2001

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navigating



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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Call for applications for



Systemic Infrastructure Initiative funds



The first round of applications for funds from the Systemic Infrastructure Initiative have been called for, with applications due at the end of August. The Minister for Education, Training and Youth Affairs, Dr David Kemp, recently approved guidelines for the Initiative, which was initially announced by the Government earlier this year as part of *Backing Australia's Ability – An Innovation Action Plan for the Future*.



The Government announced in *Backing Australia's Ability* that \$246 million would be allocated over five years "to upgrade the basic infrastructure of universities ...".



University infrastructure comprises the 'overhead' resources essential for undertaking high quality research and research training projects or programs. It includes: the operation of facilities such as libraries, computing centres, animal houses, herbaria, and experimental farms; the purchase, hire, installation and maintenance of equipment; telecommunications; and salaries and services for support staff.

This initiative will provide funding to upgrade the systemic infrastructure of universities to meet demonstrated needs. Funding will be provided for innovative approaches that link or expand access to shared facilities, such as libraries, information and communications technologies, specialised equipment, technical and administrative assistance.

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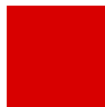


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Call for applications for

Systemic Infrastructure Initiative funds (cont)



Those eligible to apply are restricted to universities and other higher education institutions specified in Tables A and B of the *Higher Education Funding Act 1988*:

www.austlii.edu.au/au/legis/cth/consol_act/hefa1988221/index.html

Universities can submit one proposal each, and an unlimited number of collaborative proposals. The proposals may request funding for a maximum of three years. There is no set limit on the level of Commonwealth funding that can be requested. The Systemic Infrastructure Initiative guidelines can be found on the DETYA Internet site at:

www.detya.gov.au/highered/research/sys_research.htm

Proposals will be called for in rounds held for each year of the funding. Applications for this current round of funding, which will be paid to universities as a part of their operating grants in early 2002, are due by **COB Friday, 31 August 2001**.



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Summit on the Humanities and Social Sciences in the

21st Century

Public debate about recent Government initiatives, such as the National Innovation Summit and *Backing Australia's Ability*, has tended to focus on the importance of science and technology in contributing to innovation and Australia's future economic competitiveness. However, the discussion has tended to downplay the significant complementary roles of the social sciences and humanities, which provide the organisational, legal, and economic frameworks that are critical to innovation, and which contribute to our understanding of our social and cultural institutions and of the social consequences of change.

Against this background, the Commonwealth is supporting a major two-day summit at the new National Museum of Australia in Canberra to

explore and promote ways in which the humanities and social sciences can and do contribute to twenty-first century economies. The summit is being hosted by the Academies of the Humanities and Social Sciences and the Business Higher Education Round Table on 26 and 27 July. Attendance at the summit will be on an invitation only basis.

Further information about the Summit can be obtained from the following web site:

www.anu.edu.au/cce/humanities

26 and 27 July 2001

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Profiles Update

In E-news No.7 (10 April 2001) we described the educational profile negotiated with institutions each year as the Commonwealth's major accountability mechanism and an important step in the process of making allocations for the next year of the funding triennium.

What Happens Next?

The 2001 Profiles round is about to get underway in earnest. DETYA has already received Profiles submissions from most universities and *Research and Research Training Management Reports* were arriving in numbers last Friday.

The next stage is for Commonwealth representatives to meet with officials at each of Australia's higher

education institutions. The visits begin on 31 July, at the University of New South Wales, and continue to 18 October, when the host will be the Northern Territory University. In most cases, visits will be to the main campus of the university. Last year we visited many regional and outer metropolitan campuses.

Institutions will be visited by one of three DETYA teams led by:

- Michael Gallagher, First Assistant Secretary, Higher Education Division;
- Bill Mutton, Assistant Secretary, Higher Education Funding Group; and
- Tom Karmel, Assistant Secretary, Information and Analysis Group.

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Meetings(cont)

What Will be Discussed?

This year's profiles agenda covers:

- strategic plans
- research and research training
- student load
- resource management
- quality assurance and improvement
- equity
- indigenous education
- on-line courses and support
- items raised by specific institutions

In addition to the formal meetings, the DETYA team will see examples of innovative developments in teaching delivery, research or student administrative practices at each institution.

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TEACHING
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autc

in **ICT**

information and communications technology

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University courses that aim to prepare graduates for careers using Information and Communications Technology (ICT) have diversified and expanded in recent years. Disciplines with a strong focus on ICT include Computer Science, Information Technology, Engineering and Business. Nevertheless there is a concern that industry will face a significant shortfall of graduates with relevant ICT skills in the near future.

This emerging issue will be examined in a project to be conducted by a Monash University team lead by Associate Professor John Hurst.

Associate Professor Hurst's team has won funding from the Australian Universities Teaching Committee (AUTC) to report on learning outcomes and curriculum development in ICT.

In making its report, the project team will consider:

- methods of assessing student and employer satisfaction, and the role such assessments play in curriculum review and enhancement of teaching and learning;
- relationships between course design and indicators such as enrolment and employment trends, graduate satisfaction and graduate employability;

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in **ICT** (cont)

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- ways of incorporating strategies for the use of industry expertise in curriculum development and in the teaching and learning process; and
- strategies for the development of academic staff and for resolving academic staff shortages.

The first stage of the project is expected to be completed in November 2001.

The AUTC

The Australian Universities Teaching Committee (AUTC) was established in 2000 as part of the Government's

commitment to promoting quality and excellence in university teaching and learning in Australia.

The AUTC has a brief to identify emerging issues in teaching and learning in Australian universities. It administers a grants programme designed to identify and support effective methods of teaching and learning and seeks to promote the dissemination and adoption of such methods across the higher education sector.

E-news is progressively covering all of the projects receiving AUTC funding.

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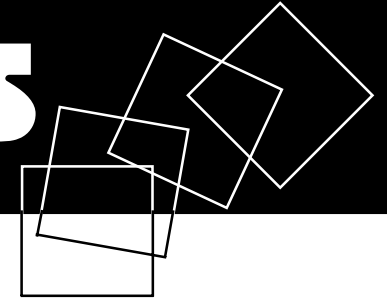


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DETYA's publications and websites



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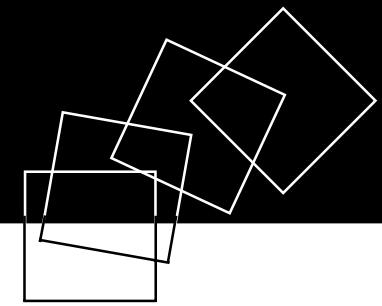
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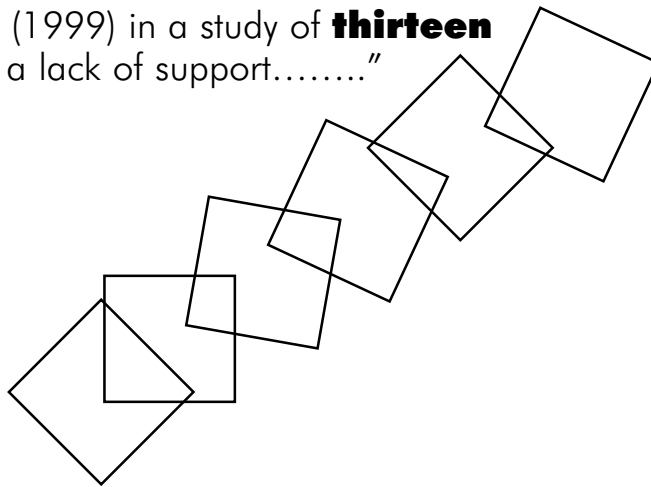
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Corrigendum for higher education series report number 37

In the publication *Factors Associated with Completion of Research Higher Degrees*, the last paragraph in 1.7 under 'Help to publish and disseminate research findings' should read as follows:

"Dinham and Scott (1999) in a study of **thirteen countries**, found a lack of support....."



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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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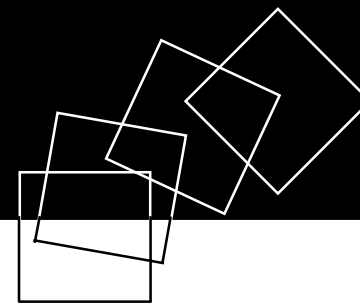
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websites

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
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- Australian Universities
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www.detya.gov.au/highered/links.htm

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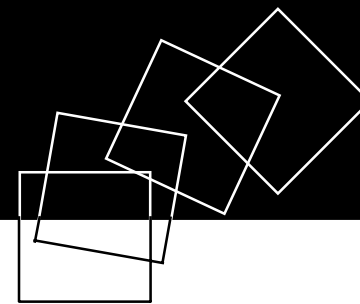
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favourites

- *Atlas of Higher Education: A community focus*
www.detya.gov.au/uniatlas
- e-news on higher education
www.detya.gov.au/highered/enevs
- *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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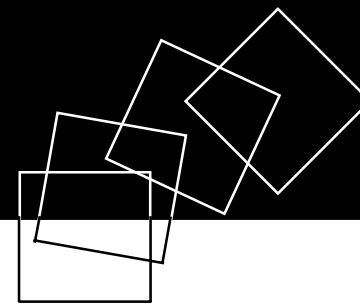
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ISSN 1440-7329

DETYA No. 6639HERC01A

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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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e-news on higher education
issue number: enews-15
released 17 July 2001

e-news is available on the Internet at:

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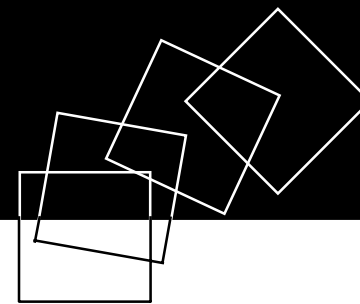
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