



### Welcome to the final Planning and Quality newsletter for 2011

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This newsletter is published by the Strategic Planning & Quality Office.

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University of Wollongong



**As we mark the end of the year**, we also mark the end of an era. We say goodbye to our outgoing VC, Professor Gerard Sutton, a champion and an inspiration for all of us.

2011 has been another interesting year. It began with our own AUQA audit and ended with AUQA's cycle 2 audits being brought to a sudden halt. Next year TEQSA begins in earnest with a regulatory system based on standards and compliance. The methods and criteria TEQSA will use are still not clear and we may yet look back longingly to AUQA. As that Danish prince (not Fred) said, it is sometimes better to *"bear those ills we have, than fly to others that we know not of"*.

The quality agenda is still very much alive in the sector and in the University. Without the Quality cycle - Plan, Act, Review, Improve - we can't articulate and meet standards nor, more importantly, will we be able to outstrip them to demonstrate excellence and leadership.

In this short, seasonal edition of imPAQt, we'd like to give a flavour of what lies ahead for 2012 (without frightening the reindeers).

Thank you all for your co-operation, hard work and, indeed, enthusiasm in 2011. The academic enterprise of UOW, the very reason why we're here, is rich and healthy as a result.

*We wish you a restful holiday and a very Happy Christmas season.*

## TEQSA - on the horizon and approaching fast



The new regulatory environment comes into being from 29 January. Guidelines and criteria are, in many cases, still a work in progress. The good news is that, unlike the universities that haven't undergone Cycle 2 AUQA audits, the **University of Wollongong is registered as a higher education provider until 31 March 2018**. What's next...

- ✓ **November 2011:** Cycle 2 (AUQA) audits cancelled; Higher Education Standards Panel established
- ✓ **From 29 January:** A *National Register of Higher Education Providers* on the TEQSA website; TEQSA assumes the higher education ESOS functions
- ✓ **Early 2012:** TEQSA's preliminary *risk scan* of providers, drawing on existing core data; Providers to notify TEQSA of *major changes to profile*, including, e.g. expansion offshore, reduction in offerings, financial viability issues.
- ✓ **Later in 2012:** More detailed *risk evaluations*
- ✓ **Coming down the track:** Compliance audits and "thematic" quality audits



## Standards

### Standards panel appointed

The Higher Education Standards Panel is responsible for developing and monitoring the **Higher Education Standards Framework**. It will be chaired by Professor Alan Robson, former Vice-Chancellor, University of Western Australia (Chair) who said (reassuringly) that *“he would seek to balance the need to reassure the public on quality while ensuring that the standards were not excessively intrusive on universities”*.

**The Higher Education Standards Framework is expected to be released early next year.**

Threshold Standards		
<b>1. Provider Standards</b> Based on National Protocols <i>(draft in place)</i>	<b>2. Qualification Standards</b> Based on Australian Qualifications Framework <i>(in place but subject to adjustment in consultation)</i>	
Performance Standards		
<b>3. Teaching &amp; Learning Standards</b> <i>(In development)</i>	<b>4. Research Standards</b> <i>(to be developed)</i>	<b>5. Information Standards</b> <i>(to be developed)</i>

More information about TEQSA approaches and processes will be included in our next newsletter.



### Is UOW up to Standard?

#### How are we preparing?

- ✓ UOW Teaching & Learning Strategic Project underway to *“develop a framework for setting, monitoring and demonstrating Learning & Teaching Standards at UOW with reference to a new regulatory environment nationally and developments in global education.*
- ✓ UOW Qualification Standards Review: to check compliance with Australian Qualifications Framework and identify action required by 2015 (implementation date).
- ✓ University Education Committee (UEC) restructured; Standards and Quality Committee established.
- ✓ UOW Participation in two external projects...

### What are the external projects?

UOW is participating with consortiums of universities from across Australia; the projects are likely to influence the evolution of the Australian Higher Education Standards

1. Teaching Standards Framework (DEEWR funded)
2. External Moderation Project (ALTC)

### HDR Benchmarking Project

UOW is also involved in a new project with benchmarking partners, the University of Tasmania and Deakin University. This involves all UOW faculties assessing HDR support across eight performance areas (processes and outcomes) - in line with DIISR’s consultation paper Defining Quality for Research Training in Australia.

<http://www.innovation.gov.au/Research/ResearchWorkforcelssues/Documents/DefiningQualityforResearchTraininginAustralia.pdf>

#### Timetable:

- ✓ Self review and Institutional Workshop - Completed
- ✓ Peer Review Workshop - 12 December in Sydney
- ✓ Project report with recommendations - expected March 2012

### Planning: Another changing landscape in 2012

- ✓ Faculty planning and review reports under review to integrate data (first steps taken in 2011 cycle) and better align budgetary process with strategic goals (in mission-based system). Online reporting tools being investigated
- ✓ Management Plans released in streamlined form; future development and monitoring processes under review
- ✓ Strategic Plan – review scheduled to begin next year (usually later but could be sooner)

**Keep up to date:** SEE THE LATEST NEWS FROM THE EXTERNAL ENVIRONMENT POSTED @ <https://intranet.uow.edu.au/planquality/> ALONG WITH KEY WEBSITES AND REFERENCES

*We’ll be back next year with a new look, ‘re-branded’ newsletter to give you more information. In the meantime, Merry Christmas from the SPQ team!*