

## **Building a College of Peers: calibration and peer-review workshop**

**5 August 2016**

The workshop will be part of an ongoing series of activities focussed on CAUTHE's role in auspicing the recently endorsed [Threshold Learning Outcomes](#) (TLOs) for tourism, hospitality and events (TH&E). Sara Booth (University of Tasmania) will lead this session on how to build a 'College of Peers'. Critically, it will build upon a parallel activity of colleagues using Education Services Australia (ESA) [online peer collaboration tool](#) to anonymously share and review firstly assessment activities and the calibration of 'sampled' student work.

The workshop will include discussion about:

1. Comparing learning outcomes and assessment in final year AQF 7 / capstone units across different providers and different countries
2. Aligning the external peer review to the tourism, hospitality and events Threshold Learning Outcomes (TLOs)
3. Identifying areas of good practice, areas for improvement and areas for sharing
4. Mapping out the next phase of the benchmarking process.

External peer review of assessment provides an important mechanism to measure comparative course quality, equivalence and performance, demonstrate that the focus, outcomes and assessment is comparable with courses at the same level in similar fields at other Australian and New Zealand higher education providers. It can also be used to ensure consistency across both private providers and universities and ensure that courses meet equivalent academic standards meeting with the Tertiary Education Quality Agency (TEQSA) and the Academic Quality Agency (AQA) in New Zealand.

### **Why you should attend and be actively involved**

The TH&E areas are under considerable stress in public sector universities. Relentless pressure to generate greater efficiencies and profitability has seen several stand-alone TH&E schools and departments closed down with specialist undergraduate courses folded into a specialisation within a generic business or management degree. There is a sense that unless something is done, these specialisations will be further watered down to become electives or minors within the generic undergraduate business program, further weakening the presence of TH&E courses and academics in public sector universities. Whilst colleagues must persist with demonstrating the academic legitimacy and scholarship of our research outcomes and outputs, we need to acknowledge the importance of the students and course delivery.

The development of sector wide and universally accepted threshold learning outcomes can help arrest the decline in the status of TH&E in public sector universities. CAUTHE has supported the development of these standards and has agreed to auspice their ongoing development and deployment. The Australian Business Deans Council (ABDC) has endorsed these standards and CAUTHE's role in auspicing them and looks to CAUTHE to report regularly on the ongoing development of the standards. Critically, this activity demonstrates to the ABDC that TH&E warrant their own standards and thus, by implication are different to other business courses and so should, as much as possible, stand alone.

If CAUTHE and its members are actively involved in the ongoing development of the standards and reports such activities to the ABDC, then there is a reasonable hope that the ABDC, and especially Deans with TH&E programs in their portfolio, will offer some protection to TH&E programs.

If you have any questions, please contact Paul Whitelaw [paulw@angliss.edu.au](mailto:paulw@angliss.edu.au).