# Professionalization of Quality Assurance in Australia's Non-Self Accrediting Higher Education Providers

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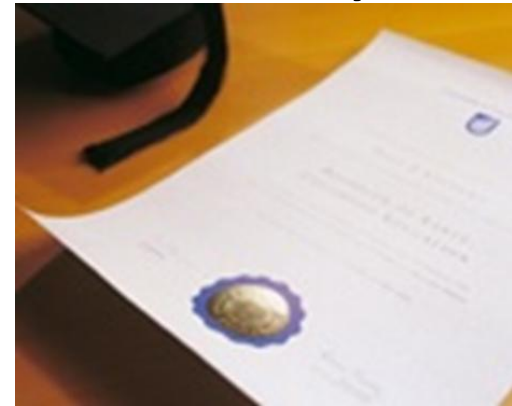
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# Outline

- Introduction – Professionalization; Quality Assurance in Australian Higher Education

- the incorporation of the non-university sector

- Professionalization through:
  - Shared knowledge
  - Professional development
  - Benchmarking

- Synergies with professionalization of the agency

# **Professionalization**

- A social process whereby people come to engage in an activity as a paid occupation

     e.g. quality managers

- Shared knowledge

- Validation and accreditation processes

# **Quality Assurance in Australian Higher Education**

- Australian Universities Quality Agency established 2000
- External review 2006 'highly efficient and professional'
- First cycle of University audits 2002-06

# Quality Assurance in Australian Higher Education

- Inclusion of NSA-HEPs 2006
- Accelerating pace – over 80 HEPs to be audited by 2015
- From 2013 combined in new agency for all tertiary education

TERTIARY EDUCATION QUALITY AND STANDARDS AGENCY

# Non-self accrediting Higher Education Providers (NSA-HEPs)

A diverse sector - over 500 providers

Generally small <2000 students

- o Specialised – eg Music, Business
- o Theological
- o TAFE

If in receipt of government funding, requirement for 5-yearly audit: these are NSA-HEPs

# **Professionalization within HEPs: the role of AUQA**

- Role of State agencies in registration and program accreditation
- AUQA the only audit body approved from 2007
  - Incorporation of NSA-HEPs into national audit schedule
- Requirement for specialized professional staff within AUQA
- Publication of audit reports and analysis of trends – knowledge dissemination

# **First Twenty AUQA Audits – Areas of Good Practice**

- Student-Centred Approaches

- Student Support

- Community Engagement

- The Development of a Quality Culture and quality academic staff

# **First Twenty AUQA Audits – Areas for Improvement**

- Institutional Governance

  -numerous aspects

- Academic Governance

- Benchmarking

- Human Resource Management

- Assessment and Moderation

# Professionalization within HEPs: professional development

- Specialist workshops by AUQA
  - Use of Data
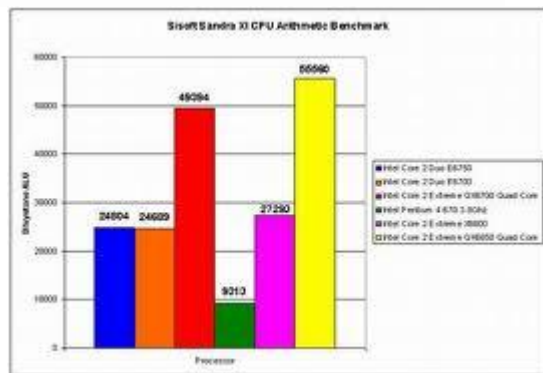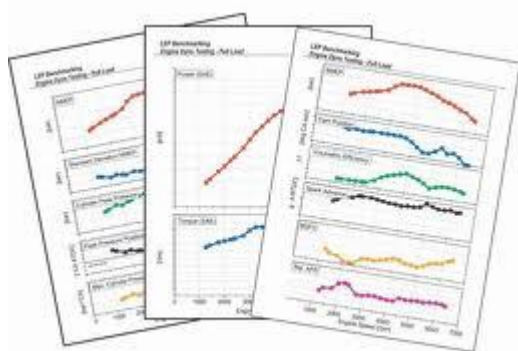  - Benchmarking
- Academic Governance Guidelines

http://www.auqa.edu.au/files/publications/academic_governance_and_quality_assurance_good_practice_for_nsais.pdf

- Auditors from NSA-HEPs
- NSA Good Practices

# **Professionalization within HEPs: benchmarking by the sector**

**Australian Council of Private Education and Training**

- First iteration 2010

- 19 members

- Expanding good practice

- Policy on professorial titles

# Synergies in Professionalization

- Professionalism of AUQA but requirement for increasingly specialized staff

- Specialized appointments within NSA-HEPs

- NSA Auditors as leaders

# **Synergies in Professionalization**

- ACPET co-ordinating and driving QA and QI from within the sector
- Synergies between agency and institutions

# **Conclusions**

Increasing professionalization in Australian NSA-HEP sector through:

- AUQA – body of knowledge
- Professional development
- Benchmarking

Synergies between professionalization of agency and institutions resulting in quality improvement across sector

# Your Questions

# Discussion

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