



ECU AUQA Progress Report June 2006

1. Overview

Following the March 2004 Australian Universities Quality Agency (AUQA) audit of ECU, the University received 23 Commendations (areas where AUQA commends the practices of ECU), 7 Affirmations (areas where AUQA affirms the need identified by ECU for improvements to its practices), and 12 Recommendations (areas where AUQA recommends improvements to the practices of ECU). ECU is required to provide a Progress Report (Action Plan) to AUQA against the Affirmations and Recommendations noted in ECU's AUQA Audit Report (October 2004).

2. Commendations - Good Practices

In 2005 ECU was invited by AUQA to submit 15 of its Commendations to the AUQA Good Practice Database (www.auqa.edu.au/gp). Fourteen of these were accepted for inclusion into the Database.

3. Opportunities for Improvement

On April 12th 2005 a Risk Rating Workshop was conducted in order to provide a risk rating for the 48 outcomes (7 Affirmations, 12 Recommendations and 29 ECU self-identified Other Opportunities for Improvement) in an Action Plan, which would effectively constitute ECU's Progress Report to AUQA. The Workshop was facilitated by the Director, Risk Management and Audit Assurance (RMAA) and attended by the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic), Executive Director, Governance, Policy and Planning, Executive Dean (Business and Law) and the Strategic Quality Coordinator.

Following the Workshop, it was agreed that, irrespective of the Risk Rating, Responsible Executives would be asked to include, where appropriate, supporting material and outcomes of strategies and actions as evidence of progress. Attachment A lists the Affirmations, Recommendations and ECU self-identified Other Opportunities for Improvement arising from the March 2004 AUQA Audit of ECU. A risk rating for each action item ("Low"; "Medium"; "Substantial") is also included.

4. Progress of Action Items

The strategies and actions within the Action Plan have been classified in terms of progress against identified action items. The following terms, to describe progress, have been employed in the Document:

- Completed – item has been fully actioned.
- Completed: Ongoing Implementation – item has been actioned and implementation is viewed as being longer-term in nature rather than restricted to the period following the AUQA Audit.
- Completed: Ongoing Monitoring – item has been actioned and will be monitored to ensure that benchmarks are maintained.
- Ongoing Investigation – item has been actioned by ECU as far as possible, however, there are broader sector-wide issues still need to be clarified.
- In Train – item requires additional action.
- Ongoing Implementation – item is being progressively addressed.



Of the 48 outcomes, which comprised 88 sub-actions, ECU has completed approximately 90% of initiatives to which it committed as illustrated in the table below.

<i>STATUS</i>	<i>RISK RATING</i>			<i>TOTAL</i>	<i>%</i>
	<i>Low</i>	<i>Medium</i>	<i>Substantial</i>		
Completed	18	24	10	52	59%
Completed: Ongoing Implementation	3	12	4	19	22%
Completed: Ongoing Monitoring	1	6	0	7	8%
Ongoing Investigation	1	0	0	1	1%
In Train	2	2	1	5	6%
Ongoing Implementation	1	1	2	4	4%
TOTAL	26	45	17	88	100%

Evidence to verify progress includes:

- Minutes from relevant committees (Academic Board, Council, VCPMG, etc);
- Plans;
- Reports;
- Discussion Papers;
- Reviews;
- Policies;
- Guidelines and templates; and
- Websites.

The Director, RMAA has independently reviewed the Action Plan to ensure that evidence provided is robust, relevant and valid. Areas requiring additional evidence included: Consultative Committees; International Activities; and Student Priorities.

Outstanding issues are being investigated by the DVC (Academic) and an updated Progress Report incorporating this information will again be provided to the Director, RMAA for further validation.

Prepared by the Strategic Quality Coordinator, in consultation with the DVC (Academic) and Executive Director, Governance, Policy and Planning