

**BEYOND FREMANTLE
OUTCOMES and INTENTIONS
2010 - 2011**

Beyond Newcastle 2009

The Associate Deans Learning and Teaching Network was first convened by DASSH at its 2009 Newcastle Conference as part of its Discipline Support Strategy. The Network was founded on the principles articulated in the Newcastle Declaration, which included the key aims:

- to provide professional development to its members regarding such issues as standards and outcomes; higher education policy; leadership; resource sharing; and professional skills; and
- to engage its members as advocates for the disciplines, with a particular emphasis on teaching and learning issues.

Since then the Network has:

- established a national Steering Committee with representation from all regions of Australia;
- established several regional network groups across Australia;
- convened a second national meeting of all members in Fremantle (September 2010);
- been active in the development of the ALTC standards and outcomes, including representation in the reference groups for History and Geography;
- supported the appointment of a Project Officer to the Discipline Support Strategy; and
- provided its members with updates and resources regarding higher education policy, including face-to-face meetings between the steering committee, DEEWR and the ALTC in Adelaide (May 2010).

Beyond Fremantle 2010

Network members agreed on the following resolutions at the national meeting in Fremantle. To:

- conduct three collaborative projects regarding key issues in teaching and learning within the Arts, Social Sciences and Humanities;
- convene more regular national meetings of the Network at which critical updates on higher education policy and valuable project work would be conducted;
- use the Network's 2011 budget to support the attendance of these meetings by its members as best as possible; and
- establish an electronic network of communication and resource sharing.

National Meetings

The Network members propose the following meeting schedule for 2011:

- National meeting
Monash University (City Campus), hosted by Monash and Deakin Universities
10-11 March 2011.
- National meeting
University of New South Wales, Sydney; hosted by UNSW
9-10 June 2011.
- National Conference
Townsville; hosted by James Cook University
29-30 September 2011.

It is recommended that the national meetings convene for 1.5 days and that they include the opportunity for group project work; dinner; discussion; and higher education policy updates.

Project Collaboration

The Network members have identified a range of key issues they believe deserve collaborative attention in national projects. The members welcome the appointment of a Project Officer to the Network, Dr Loan Dao, and look forward to her involvement in the rich and complex research areas identified by the Network members.

Three collaborative projects to be undertaken by the Network members and their Project Officer in 2011 include:

Project	Project Leader
1. Academic Standards: Implementation and Evidence	Frank d'Agostino
2. Assessment in the Arts, Social Sciences and Humanities: Scoping the guidelines, good practice and benchmarks	TBA
3. First-year experience: Recruitment, transition and retention	Sean Brawley

The Network members have also identified other areas of critical need which relate to Deans and Faculties, and recommend that the DASSH board engage projects in at least the following areas:

- Bachelor of Arts Scoping Project: update and renewal;
- Career pathways for Associate Deans, with particular attention to promotion opportunities for such staff who are unable to be heavily research active due to their Faculty duties; and
- Funding the Faculties: cluster funding, international students, revenue and the real cost of funding an Arts education.

Statement regarding measurement of Academic Standards

The Network recognises the opportunity to advise and influence the shaping of policy regarding key issues in higher education, and in particular the ongoing development and implementation of the academic standards.

With this in mind the national steering committee will release a public statement as soon as possible outlining the means by which we recommend the incoming academic standards can be best demonstrated within Universities.

Members recognise the diverse opportunities for assessing the standards within curriculum and will recommend that Universities adopt any of the following measures to demonstrate their engagement with the standards in Arts and Creative Arts majors:

- Capstone (final) units;
- Core and/or gateway units;
- Curriculum mapping;
- External audit or benchmarking of such issues as curriculum content, assessment and/or grading;
- Portfolios of student work.

Members also agree that individual Universities should be allowed to implement those means which they believe best indicate their engagement with the national standards and that they may, indeed, adopt any number of these measures as they consider appropriate.

Townsville 2011

The Network members welcome the opportunity to continue meeting in conjunction with the DASSH national conference and look forward to meeting in Townsville in September 2011.

We recommend that the following issues or activities be covered within the Network's program:

- Opportunity for ongoing network dialogue and exchange;
- Project reports;
- Professional development of Associate Dean's workplace skills;
- Update on higher education policy. We particularly recommend a briefing regarding the implementation and review of standards by TEQSA which, by that time, will be fully operational.

The Network recommends a program of approximately 2.5 days which would include opportunity for project work and exchange preceding joint conference sessions with the Deans (2 days).

National Steering Committee

The Network confirms the following people have been elected to its National Steering Committee, 2010 – 2011. Given the shift in 2011 to project-driven networking and the intention to meet more frequently, members have agreed that the size of the committee does not need to be as significant as it was in 2010.

Co-convenors	Deborah Gare, University of Notre Dame Australia
	Joy Wallace, Charles Sturt University
Projects	Sarah Paddle, Deakin University
Conference 2011	Kay Martinez, James Cook University
Sydney 2011	Sean Brawley, University of New South Wales
Melbourne 2011	Stephen Legg, Monash University
Project Leaders	Fred d'Agostino, University of Queensland
	Sean Brawley
	Deborah Gare

Budget

We have been advised that DASSH expects \$35,225 to be available to support the activities of the Network (in addition to the employment of the Project Officer) from October 2010 to December 2011.

We are aware that the arrival of these funds from the ALTC grant will not, in large part, take place until November 2011. Given the extensive activity of the Network in 2011, and the completion of the Discipline Support Strategy by the end of 2011, we ask the DASSH board to consider releasing their own funds to assist in the Network activities between now and then, on the expectation that the final grant instalment will fully cover all costs incurred.