

Newsletter Issue 1/2017

January
2017



From the President



Happy New Year to everyone! I hope you all had a good break and you are refreshed for the year ahead of us. So, what's ahead for the Association in 2017...

As mentioned in my first message 'From the President's Desk' in the November 2016 newsletter, our new committee is in place with changes to the leadership being worked through. We have role descriptions and portfolios that we are working on finalising to ensure that areas of importance or significance, e.g. financial matters and the forums, are well covered. We are also looking at covering liaison with affiliate bodies and sponsors through the portfolios. The trans-Tasman nature of the organisation is also being enhanced by now having three Kiwis on the Committee. Many of us think this will enhance the organisation and promote more sharing of information from both sides of the 'ditch'. We also hope to be able to take advantage of our events during the year to have face-to-face meetings of the Committee, as well as the regular

conference call between Committee members. Please feel free to contact us at any time if you want to raise an issue or acquire information about the Association. Our contact details are here: <http://www.aair.org.au/pages/aair-executive-members>.

The 2017 AAIR Forum was announced last year, and this time it is in Alice Springs. The organising committee has already started planning for the event being led by staff from Charles Darwin University. It will be traditionally held in early November, so mark your calendars. Being involved in organising a Forum is always a rewarding (and exhausting) experience, as I well know. I have been both on the committee and a chair, and as such I can guarantee that the investment of your time is well worth it! So think about being involved and get in touch with [Don Johnston](#) (Vice President) from Southern Cross University if you want more details. This is your chance to engage in discussions around themes and issues, and generally give input into your next Forum.

The AAIR SIG Forum is likely to be held in June or July (yet to be determined). We are trying to ensure that the SIG moves around a bit to allow as many of our members to attend as possible. We are currently exploring options for in or around Sydney. Keep an eye out for Bulletins, notices on our website, as well as information in our newsletter for more details.

We are also trying to hold more regional events similar to the very successful Melbourne dinner event where Hamish Coates spoke about 'Australian Institutional Research—Framing Upcoming Challenges & Opportunities'. The next event is to be held in **Sydney on 22 February 2017**, and the topic this year is '[Using Cohort Analysis with Open Source Datasets for Strategic, Operational, and Tactical Purposes](#)'. This year's speaker is Anthony (Tony) Nolan, OAM, intelligence analyst and data scientist. If there are people you would like to hear speak at an event, you know a great place to hold a similar event, or there are matters you would appreciate knowing more about, please [let us know](#).

Finally, in this newsletter you will see some new features from our editors [Monica Chen and Tracy Creagh](#). They are adding their own ideas on how to make the newsletter something that is useful and valued to you as readers. They would love your feedback and suggestions, so do let them know what you think.

I hope that 2017 proves to be one of the best years yet for the Association and for each of you, our trusty members and followers. I look forward to seeing you at some of our events this year, and to assist you in your involvement with AAIR.

Kathie Rabel
AAIR President

January Newsletter

[Editorial](#)

[Sector News and Views](#)

[Big Data, Analytics and Technology](#)

[Graduate Outcomes and Employability](#)

[Learning & Teaching](#)

[Research](#)

[On the move](#)

[Positions Vacant](#)

[Higher Education Conferences and Events](#)

[Book Reviews](#)

[Institutional Researcher's Corner. Five quick questions with ...](#)

[Call for contributions](#)

Editorial

Welcome to 2017. Here is a quick recap of some of the key issues, trends and highlights that shaped, in particular, the Australian higher education sector in 2016. One can predict with almost certainty that some of these issues will continue to carryover in 2017.

2016 – A year in review:

Demand-driven no more? [University enrolment growth](#) has plateaued with growth in [applications fell to 1.7 per cent](#) in 2016, down from 3.2 per cent in 2015.

Who will be funded? A new package of funding reform is due to be released in early 2017. Some are [calling for a 15 per cent fee](#) on student loans, while others call for a [complete overhaul](#), with vocational and higher education treated similarly and all courses backed by government subsidies as well as the unified loan scheme. Some proposed [five key principles](#) that should be used to guide the reform agenda. Let's also not forget the [VET FEE-HELP debacle](#) and its replacement [VET education loan program](#) that came into effect on 1 January 2017.

Life after ATAR? The ATAR debate was everywhere in 2016. Whilst some will assure you that the system "[is really not that bad](#)" and, that there are [other factors that determine eligibility](#) for tertiary education. Others were concerned by the lack of transparency and are [calling for open reporting](#) that saw two universities (UWA and UNSW) openly publish their ATAR scores online, and an [admissions transparency report](#) by the Higher Education Standards Panel that was [accepted](#) by the government.

To blend or not to blend? Online and/or blended learning continue to be a hot topic in the learning and teaching space. The latest views seem to be that there's not much point in talking about it anymore, but rather, just focus on developing [quality course design](#) which will be key to better student engagement.

Research impact – how do we measure it? The Turnbull Government will [pilot ways to measure the impact of university research and their engagement with business and industry in 2017](#), a next step in the National Innovation and Science Agenda.

2017 – What's ahead for higher education?

A couple of relevant articles:

From the UK perspective, [What will happen in higher education in 2017?](#) The Guardian reported on the impact of Brexit, the Teaching Excellence Framework and student action.

And in the US, the [latest trends and predictions for higher ed in 2017](#) noted the attention given to the new Trump administration and the importance of demanding more transparency in data related to graduate outcomes.

eCampus News offered [14 hot higher ed trends for 2017](#) which included the rise of non-traditional students, intelligent apps (!), competency-based education and micro-credentialing.

The Huffington Post noted that "technology will help to redefine — if not remake entirely — the campus of 2019." [Welcome to the Campus of 2019](#) also notes the increase in non-traditional students and what this means for the institution

While not specific to higher education, [Gartner's Top 10 Strategic Predictions For 2017 And Beyond](#) identifies three high level predications in terms of digital innovations:

- Digital experience and engagement will draw people into nonstop virtual interactions
- Business innovation will create extraordinary change from mundane concepts
- Secondary effects will be more disruptive than the initial digital change

[Putting Institutional Research on the RADAR](#), published on 13 December 2016 and written by Ellen Wagner.

Happy Reading.

Sector News and Views

1. Grattan Institute's proposed remodelling of the student loan arrangement for higher education – [Shared interest: A universal loan fee for HELP](#) was released in early December. The report argues that "loan fees would contribute to budget repair, but leave per student university funding unchanged, reduce pressure to cap student numbers, avoid up-front charges and preserve protections for low-income graduates." There has since been some reaction across the sector, principally from [Innovative Research Universities](#) who have claimed

- there is no benefit for either the student or the university in terms of quality and resources. There was also criticism of the loan fee from the [National Tertiary Education Union](#). Bruce Chapman, from ANU, clarified the proposed rate in [The Conversation](#).
2. More than 80 leadership figures from over 30 universities attended an inaugural symposium hosted by [Universities Australia](#) and the Council for the Advancement and Support of Education (CASE) on December 9. Acknowledging the recently released [The Charitable Giving to Universities in Australia and New Zealand Survey](#), which reported universities raising almost \$539 million in 2015, leaders acknowledged the need to build a "a culture of philanthropy". The next steps, as agreed by Universities Australia and CASE, are: To encourage Australian universities to participate in the annual benchmarking survey; Work together to professionalise the advancement workforce; and explore opportunities for further events and workshops for sharing information, ideas and best practice.
 3. Former Australian Prime Minister Julia Gillard was interviewed in [Times Higher Education](#) as the new visiting professor at King's College London. As well as a discussion on women leaders and social media, Ms Gillard discussed the changing nature of higher education and competition in a global market.
 4. University of New South Wales has confirmed the move to a new academic calendar from 2019 consisting of three normal terms each with ten weeks teaching, and an optional five-week summer term. The new academic calendar – [UNSW3+](#) is part of the university's 2025 strategy and the development of the Scientia Educational Experience.
 5. [Australia's tertiary education cohort tops 2 million](#). The Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) released new figures on higher education involvement indicating one in five Australians aged 15 to 64, or 3 million people, are enrolled in formal study. The ABS showed there are 4.6 million Australians with a bachelor degree or higher. This represents a tripling of the proportion of people with these qualifications over the past 30 years; 7.2 per cent in 1986, compared with 26 per cent today.
 6. Chinese higher education institutions dominated the [Times Higher Education BRICS and Emerging Economies University Rankings 2017](#), taking six of the top 10 places, with Peking University coming top and Tsinghua University second. BRICS is the acronym for Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa.
 7. Qiang Zha provided a concise overview of international rankings in [Inside Higher Education](#) and warned "university rankings will continue to prosper, yet their outcomes must be used carefully for limited purposes".
 8. And more on rankings, [Brendan O'Malley's](#) piece in University World News reported on the analysis by the United Kingdom higher education think tank, the Higher Education Policy Institute or HEPI. The report, [International University Rankings: For good or ill?](#) considers the inputs for the various international league tables and discusses their overall weaknesses before considering some improvements that could be made.
 9. [Data key to make international student services better, more efficient](#). Both the ISANA International Education Association in Australia and New Zealand have called upon institutions and education bodies to take an evidence-driven approach to develop strategies and inform student services spending. Speaking at the 27th [ISANA Conference](#) at the Te Papa museum in Wellington, New Zealand, members agreed that a better understanding of needs gaps through data collection would mean more cost effective strategies for students.
 10. There are 18 education providers among the 106 organisations, ticked as employers of choice from the Workplace Gender Equality Agency. They are; (student organisation) ARC @ UNSW, Australian Catholic U, Curtin U, Deakin U, Edith Cowan U, Griffith U, La Trobe U, Lauriston Girls School, Monash U, QUT, Swinburne U, Uni Canberra, Uni Newcastle, Uni Southern Queensland, UTS, Uni Wollongong, Uni Wollongong Enterprises, Western Sydney University.
 11. [Western Sydney University](#) will provide e-copies of first year textbooks to 10 000 students in 700 courses this year, worth up to \$800 each. The texts are being sourced from 100 participating publishers via digital partner Proquest. The scheme replaces a previous WSU program which provided 50 000 commencing students with their own iPad in 2013-15.
 12. As reported in the November newsletter, the Higher Education Standards Panel report was submitted to the Federal Government, indicated that universities must make the entry requirements for each course clear and unambiguous. In mid-December, the Federal Government adopted all 14 recommendations, including the [push for greater transparency](#) in the admissions process.
 13. [Listening to students on how to improve universities](#). Nothing like a bit of well-articulated qualitative data to find out what students really want from their higher education experience. Over 218 entries from 50 countries took part in the [OmniPapers](#) international essay competition with the goal being to get an idea of what students saw as potential improvements in higher education as well as to motivate undergraduates to change their attitude toward academic writing.
 14. [Australian university becomes first education institution to issue climate bond](#). Monash University has raised AU\$218 million through the bond to fund sustainable development projects across its global campuses. Monash becomes the first higher education institution to issue a climate bond which was issued in the U.S. private placement market, was certified by the [Climate Bond Initiative](#) (CBI) and accredited by Moody's as a Green Bond. Over the next two years, the university plans to channel the capital raised through the bond to various projects, such as constructing or redeveloping environmentally-friendly buildings and installing solar panels and energy-efficient LED lighting.
 15. Brexit: Continuing discussion on the impact of Brexit on the higher education environment. [Nature](#) has reported on the outcomes of a parliamentary committee inquiry into the effects of Brexit on the UK higher education system. On average, some 16% of university researchers are from non-UK EU states. Alarming, the [Guardian](#) reported that the UK Home Office is considering cutting international student numbers at UK universities by nearly half (of which the home Office have since refuted).
 16. [Can Financial Advisors Help More Students Graduate? One University Thinks So](#) In the US, Georgia State has opened a new Financial Management Center this semester to identify students who are at financial risk of dropping out and intervene before it's too late. It's developing an early-warning system that uses predictive analytics to spot red flags

in student finances, such as making late payments on bills for school or failing to send verification documents to receive federal financial aids, and alerts advisors so they can reach out to support students.

17. The Australian Productivity Commission has released its report examining the nation's Intellectual Property system and makes recommendations for improvement, including that all Australian, and State and Territory governments should "implement an open access policy for publicly-funded research". Also significant for higher education is greater flexibility around the offering of MOOCs. An overview of the report can be found [here](#). If the recommendations made by the Commission are any indication, 2017 may be a busy year for copyright reform. QUT Intellectual Property and Innovation Law [Professor Matthew Rimmer](#) provided a summation of the Report and its impact.
18. The Australian National Audit Office's report on [The Administration of the VET FEE-HELP Scheme](#) was tabled in Parliament prior to Christmas. Many of its conclusions were expected, considering the negative coverage throughout the year. And the findings are very damning, the worst being that the cost to the taxpayer is \$2.2bn. Analyst Mark Warburton provided a comprehensive analysis of the report in [Campus Morning Mail](#).
19. Murdoch University has [moved to cancel its industrial agreement](#) with staff as a fractious round of enterprise bargaining moves into uncharted waters. The National Tertiary Education union says Murdoch dragged the chain in negotiations, then applied to terminate the agreement once it expired, in what the union says is an "unprecedented" departure from the usual sector practice of rolling over EBAs while bargaining is under way.
20. [Figures from the Department of Education and Training](#) show that the number of tertiary students with Australian Tertiary Admission Ranks of 50 or below has risen in six years, from about 1900 in 2010 to 8200 this year. The surge reflects relaxation of admissions standards rather than a huge jump in applications, with universities more than three times more likely to accept low-ATAR students than six years ago.
21. [A survey of more than 3800 PhD graduates](#) found that those working in industry reported lower levels of skills

development in five key areas and place less value on these skills compared with those working in academe. Higher degree research training is seen by graduates as imparting skills desirable within academe, such as undertaking research, but less effective in providing skills demanded in industry, such as teamwork and people management.

Big Data, Analytics & Technology

22. The Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency has released its [second report of key financial metrics](#) on Australia's higher education sector. The report also includes a '[The Sector at a Glance](#)' infographic summary. Overall, the higher education sector is in a healthy financial position with four out of five providers enjoying surpluses driven by booming government grants and thriving international enrolments. [But a significant number of providers across all four categories](#) (university, TAFE, not-for-profit and for-profit) are failing to thrive in otherwise halcyon times.
23. [The State of Data Education 2016](#). An interesting overview from Tableau who undertook a year-long study to catalogue the state of analytics education in the US. The Tableau team researched how more than 7,000 American universities were approaching analytics education. Tableau's Chairman [Christian Chabot](#) blogged about the report in December.
24. [Machine learning set to unlock the power of big data](#) and [Where does machine learning fit in the education sector?](#) explore the impact of big data and machine learning and the involvement of educators, educational experts and learners in the process of creating systems to enhance education.
25. [Ubersiversity – tertiary education faces another shake-up from digital disruption](#). An excellent piece by Tim Dodd in the AFR examined digital disruption in terms of education using the example of [YourTutor](#), a personalised online tutoring service which now provides feedback on assignments.

Graduate Outcomes and Employability

26. Good news for graduates. In December, the release of the [Graduate Outcomes Survey 2016](#) noted the job market for new university graduates had strengthened over the past year, with more than seven out of ten in a fulltime

job just four months after graduation. QILT's annual survey added that the outcome was even stronger for people with postgraduate degrees, with 85.1 per cent in fulltime jobs. [Universities Australia](#) added, "This neatly refutes the myth that Australia is awash with overqualified baristas and retail assistants"

Learning & Teaching

27. [Top university teachers recognised](#). Associate Professor Karen Burke da Silva from Flinders University took top honours at the Australian Awards for University Teaching in Canberra on December 1, 2016 Canberra. Associate Professor Burke da Silva received the coveted Award for Australian University Teacher of the Year, recognising her standing as one of Australia's finest science educators. The full list of award winners, individuals and groups, can be accessed [here](#).
28. The [PLuS Alliance](#), a partnership between three leading universities in the UK, US and Australia, has launched its first pilot courses and begun developing joint undergraduate and postgraduate degrees. The three member institutions, King's College London, Arizona State University and the University of New South Wales, will offer both virtual and physical exchanges, enabling students to enrol on modules offered by another university either on campus or online. It will also go further by creating tri-university degrees that allow students to spend time on all three campuses and graduate with a joint degree
29. [Engaging first-in-family university learners](#). This research was conducted across a number of Australian universities and detailed findings are outlined in the forthcoming publication: *First-in-Family Students, University Experience and Family Life: Motivations, transitions and participation*. The research by Sarah O'Shea from Wollongong University and colleagues was presented at various events at the end of 2016 and was part of an OLT Fellowship. The project website and resources are [here](#).
30. [Exam rules herald major shake-up of business education](#). Strict new admission rules were scheduled to come into force for business schools in China recruiting Chinese students for MBA and short Executive MBA courses. Institutions are no longer allowed to set their own entrance exams – part of the country's drive to root out substandard

programs with low or non-existent barriers to entry.

31. And still in China, [Why curriculum internationalisation isn't working](#) details curriculum internationalisation as a key issue in higher education today. The article reports on the experiences of Chinese masters students in business and engineering studies at a British and Australian university. And argues that such internationalisation is important for developing students' intercultural awareness, a global perspective of their subject area and the competences necessary for their future career.
32. [Artificial Intelligence Could Help Colleges Better Plan What Courses They Should Offer](#). In the US, big data may help community colleges better predict how industries are changing so they can tailor their IT courses and other programs.
33. [English universities with the most qualified academic staff](#). The UK's Higher Education Funding Council for England (Hefce) has released data collected between 2014 and 2015 noting information about teaching qualifications. Academic staff members are counted as holding a teaching qualification if they hold a credit-bearing higher education teaching qualification. Teaching qualifications are likely to factor in to the government's teaching excellence framework assessment of UK universities, which will determine funding, tuition fee caps and student recruitment quotas.
34. A new paper makes the case for competency-based education. [Shift Happens: The Entrepreneurs, Wonks, and Investors Revolutionizing the Learning-to-Employment Landscape](#) provides an overview of how technology is being applied across the education, training and hiring landscape and examines the challenges facing employers and the players working to close the skills gap through new models of learning and hiring.

Research

35. The Australian Government launched the \$200m [CSIRO Innovation Fund](#) to commercialise early-stage innovations from universities and other public research agencies. The fund will be led by venture capitalist Bill Bartee.
36. [Group of Eight dominates revamped research block grants](#). Over \$1bn in research funding was allocated to Australian universities at the end of 2016 through the Research Training Program,

which succeeds the Research Training Scheme, Australian Postgraduate Awards and International Postgraduate Research Scholarships. Almost \$900 million more will flow through the Research Support Program, which replaces the Research Infrastructure Block Grants and the Joint Research Engagement and Sustainable Research Excellence programs. The Group of Eight universities attracted almost two-thirds of the funding for 2017.

37. [The National Health and Medical Research Council](#) announced \$483m in grants in early December 2016. The Group of Eight research universities accounted for well over half the funding, led by Monash University with \$65m, followed by the University of Melbourne with \$63m and the University of Sydney with \$58m.
38. The Australian Government released a draft 10-year [National Research Infrastructure Roadmap](#) to ensure Australia's future research spending will target priority areas to build on the country's research strengths. Nine priorities have been framed through consultations with key stakeholders including the research community, universities, industry, state and federal government agencies, publicly funded research agencies and operators of research infrastructure facilities. Of interest in the digital sphere, the report says the plan is to create an Australian Data Cloud to deliver a more integrated, coherent and reliable system to "meet the needs of data-intensive, cross-disciplinary and global collaborative research".
39. [How to measure impact](#). Elsevier has launched a new metric for journal impact known as CiteScore. [Elsevier](#) claim the metric will "provide a more comprehensive, transparent and current view of a journal's impact". [Nature](#) believes the new metric mimics the already influential Journal Impact Factor (JIF).
40. Also on impact, the Turnbull Government will pilot ways to measure the impact of university research and their engagement with business and industry in 2017. The [Engagement and Impact Assessment](#) is about "incentivising the smart and talented people working in our labs and universities to better focus on research that has wider economic and social benefits," said Minister Birmingham.
41. [Research and education internet networks on rise in Africa](#). Nine African

countries have successfully established a sustainable National Research and Education Network promoting internet access to global educational resources and facilitating interaction at national and regional levels among universities and research institutions – boosting research productivity over the last decade.

On the Move

[Allan Myers](#) replaces Elizabeth Alexander as Chancellor of the University of Melbourne in January 2017. Myers was chair of the university's 'Believe' campaign which aims to raise \$1 billion for the institution.

University of Adelaide's DVC Mike Brooks will act as VC from May after the departure of [Warren Beddington](#) who will leave in April 2017.

The [National Centre for Student Equity in Higher Education](#) at Curtin University has announced its three equity fellowships for 2017. They are Matt Brett (LaTrobe), Louise Pollard (UWA) and James Smith (Charles Darwin University).

[Helen Bartlett](#) will replace David Battersby as he steps down as VC of Federation University. Helen Bartlett, now is currently Monash PVC and has been head of its Malaysian operation since 2013. DVC A Andy Smith will act as VC until Professor Bartlett arrives at her new vice chancellorial seat.

[Peter Hoj](#) will take over the role of chairman of the Group of Eight in 2017, a year ahead of schedule. He said the changeover came about after the board felt that competing agendas and political influence would be better served by rotating the role annually rather than every two years.

Positions Vacant

There are no current vacancies listed.

Seeking another opportunity in Institutional Research in Australia? Try our [Higher Education Jobs](#) webpage for current vacancies in the profession. If you are seeking an international career change see our American colleagues [AIR Careers](#) page.

Looking for some training and development?

See our [Training and Development](#) webpage focused on training for institutional researchers.

Looking for higher education conferences and events?

Here is a selection of upcoming events (or past events) that may be of interest. See our [Events/Fora](#) webpage for more national and international events.

Call for presentations: [26th National VET Research Conference](#)

Are you interested in presenting at the *26th National Vocational Education and Training Research Conference 'No Frills?'* The National Centre for Vocational Education Research (NCVER) is now accepting abstracts for both oral and poster presentations from industry, practitioners, policy makers and researchers. We strongly encourage both new and experienced presenters to apply.

Co-hosted with TasTAFE, the conference is being held in Hobart from **5 to 7 July 2017**.

All abstracts must be submitted online by **5pm on Monday 20 February 2017**.

[Open and Distance Learning Association of Australia](#)

5-7 February 2017, Melbourne, Australia

Theme: Expanding Horizons in Open & Distance Learning

Explore the possibilities for innovation, openness and community in the ever-changing and expanding world of Open and Distance Learning.

[Using Cohort Analysis with Open Source Datasets for Strategic, Operational, and Tactical Purposes](#)

22 February 2017, Sydney

Regional dinner meeting with Tony Nolan, OAM, intelligence analyst and data scientist.

[National Higher Education Women's Leadership Summit 2017](#)

13-17 February 2017, Melbourne, Australia



The *9th National Higher Education Women's Leadership Summit 2017* is the premier event for aspiring female leaders in the sector to develop essential skills and equip themselves with strategies to enhance their capabilities in a changing environment.

The Summit brings together female front runners and experts to share inspirational stories and guidance for aspiring female leaders in the sector. Stepping up' the theme of the conference will provide a platform for discussion as well as networking opportunities to potentially build career-defining relationships and help delegates to obtain their professional ambitions.

[Universities Australia Higher Education Conference](#)

1-3 March 2017, Canberra, Australia

The theme of the 2017 conference is **Higher Education: Gen Next**. The conference will focus on the future shape of higher education against a backdrop of profound economic, industrial and technological change. The expectations of the next generation of students, the implications for university education and research, and the next generation of technology are topics expected to be explored throughout the two-day conference.

[Campus Review's Futureproof 2017](#)

16 May 2017, Sydney, Australia

Engage – Influence – Innovate.

[SEAAIR 2017 Annual Conference](#)

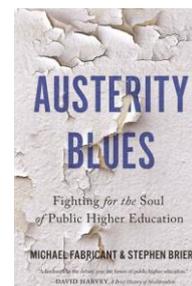
6-8 September 2017

Theme: ASEAN Higher Education at the Crossroad: Challenges, Changes, Capacities, and Capabilities

From networking with peers to presentation sessions by leading experts in the field, the annual conference is the must attend event for academics, educators, researchers and practitioners in higher education

Enjoy Reading?

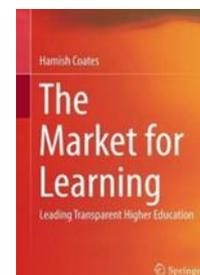
Here are a few recent releases:



[Attacking Austerity: Fighting for the Soul of Public Higher Education.](#)

Michael Fabricant and Stephen Brier.

Fabricant and Brier (from City University of New York Graduate Center) map the history of US public higher education before the start of this era of austerity, describing its rapid expansion in the post-World War II years and continuing through the developments that laid the groundwork for what they identify as austerity policies in the 1970s, 1980s and today. The authors emphasise the harmful impact of disinvestment on public universities and argue for a "a new paradigm for public higher education" and greater funding.



[The Market for Learning: Leading transparent Higher Education](#)

Hamish Coates.

Improving transparency is critical to the future of higher education. This book lays the foundations for understanding this young field and charts substantial opportunities for innovation and transformation. The book offers a transparency roadmap: it reveals the pressures reshaping higher education, clarifies the value and nature of transparency, examines emerging reporting platforms, reviews improvement opportunities for students, faculty, institutions and systems, and forecasts how to engineer important next steps.

Institutional Researcher's Corner



Five questions with Stuart Terry, Otago Polytechnic, New Zealand

1. What is your job title?

Organisational Researcher.

2. Briefly, how would you describe your role in terms of your place in your institution?

At Otago Polytechnic Organisational Research sits within the Quality Services team. Our role is to support staff and the institution to ensure we are providing high teaching and services to enable students to have the best possible learning experience. We also work with teaching staff and supporting service areas to use data to engage in an evaluative conversation that enables them to understand what the data is saying about the quality of the learning provided to learners and stakeholders.

3. From your perspective, what are the emerging areas of interest in institutional research?

For me the emerging issues are:

- How to continue to engage teaching staff and students to be active participants in the evaluative journey using different ways to connect with students. Often teaching and students see evaluation as something that is "done to them" by those people in the corporate section of an institution for reporting purposes.

- The link between student satisfaction and quality education. At present we are driven by funders, our own beliefs and expectations to measure student satisfaction with their learning and then using that rating as an indicator of high quality learning. However, is student satisfaction a valid measure of high quality learning!
- The rapid change in technology and how and when we collect data. In a short time we have moved from gathering data on paper to using online surveys however the disruptive changes in technology means we need to always be thinking about the most effective way in time, cost and results to engage students in evaluating their learning journey.

4. What do you believe will be the future priorities for institutional research?

- Providing data in an easy to understand and accessible way to an audience that is time poor.
- Increasingly providing information that is real time, with analysis and recommendations about a range of solutions.
- Integrating and managing big data sets.
- Working collaboratively with other institutional researchers to share new ideas and best practice.

5. Complete this statement: *In my role, I can't operate effectively without ...*

- The support of senior leaders who value listening to the student voice.
- The team of people who work in organisational research.
- The teaching staff who are reflective practitioner that value and use data to make improvements to their teaching.
- The opportunities to listen to and engage with colleagues in AAIR. The networking opportunities and learnings gained from AAIR members have been invaluable for me in my role as the Organisational Researcher at Otago Polytechnic.

Call for contributions

AAIR Newsletter Issue 2, February 2017

A great way to get involved with the AAIR community is to share your thoughts and ideas. Do you have something you would like to share with your IR colleagues? The next AAIR Newsletter will be published in late February. Please send your contributions to the editor@air.org.au by **Wednesday 15 February 2017**.



Monica Chen and Tracy Creagh
AAIR e-Newsletter Editors