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FROM THE PRESIDENT and VICE PRESIDENT

Let's get networking – it is worth it!

I am definitely not going to get all political on you again, but I can't help but confirm that the recent budget here in New Zealand did virtually nothing for the tertiary sector, as I suggested last month. That may be a bit unfair as we did get a one per cent increase in per-student funding, but that was after years—I think almost eight—of no funding increases across the board, or cost of living adjustments! So, I will be grateful for about two minutes and then get on with it. I do however despair for my Australian colleagues and what it looks like they will be going through for a while yet in terms of reforms and funding.

Now, on to more important things...

One of the more significant events in the AAIR calendar each year is the AAIR SIG Forum, which this year is being held at Macquarie University in Sydney. If you haven't attended an event like this, I can assure you that it is worthwhile, particularly for the practitioner-oriented nature of the presentations, and the networking opportunities and exchanges that go on as part of the event. I would urge all of you to consider attending and taking a colleague along if you can. [Registrations are open](#), and the theme this year is, *Creating Connections & Exploring Possibilities*.

To entice you even more, I will now hand over to Don Johnston, our hardworking Vice President, to give you some details about our theme, the action packed program we have prepared for you, and the social activities we have in store at this year's AAIR SIG Forum.



Thanks Kathie. Our theme this year, *Creating Connections & Exploring Possibilities*, offers you the chance to spend time connecting with your colleagues and making some new and valuable connections. You can discover new ideas in your field of expertise, explore some of the innovative changes that are taking place in this space, as well as indulge in interesting projects.

We are also very excited to have Peter O'Donnell (Monash University) and [Monica Ikladios](#) (Toyota) as our two keynote speakers this year. It's wonderful to have an industry speaker who can offer you a perspective on institutional research from outside the higher education sector. We also have a number of quality presentations scheduled across the two days (26–27 July), which will cover areas such as data analytics, business intelligence, data warehousing, surveys, student feedback, load planning and government reporting. So, it is expected to be a full and informative program.

The dinner on the Wednesday night will be held at the wonderful [Curzon Hall](#) (an iconic sandstone castle located close to Macquarie University). There will also be some casual drinks on the Tuesday night (before the formal proceedings commence on the Wednesday), to provide an opportunity for new attendees to meet other delegates, as well as offering a great opportunity for you to start networking with colleagues from around Australasia who do similar work to you.

The [full program](#) will be available shortly, so be sure to check the [AAIR SIG Forum website](#) for more information and to [register](#).

Kathie Rabel
AAIR President and Don Johnston
AAIR Vice President



EDITORIAL

Welcome to the June 2017 edition of *The Institutional Researcher*

The AAIR SIG Forum in July is not far away! Make sure to check out the [forum's page](#) for details of what exciting programs to expect for the two days (26-27 July)!

The buzzword this month is still budget, budget, budget! Universities across Australia had a busy start in June putting in submissions to the Senate Education and Employment Legislation Committee on the Higher Education Reform Package. The full report will be released on 9 August 2017.

Also, don't miss our summary of the New Zealand Budget which was announced on 25 May 2017.

The other word of month is of course, *phigital*. Read on to find out what it means!

We recognise there is a significant focus on Australian news and content but are mindful of all Australasian members, particularly our New Zealand members. Please don't hesitate to make contact with us if you have a significant news item or activity in your region you wish to share - or would like covered in future issues.

And finally, Dr Anne Statham from Queensland University of Technology (QUT) is in the Institutional Researcher's Corner this month with her responses to our five quick questions.

Happy Reading!

Tracy and Monica

SECTOR NEWS AND VIEWS

Post Australian Budget

Perhaps the most universally positive outcome from the Australian Higher Education Reform Package (announced just prior to the Budget) was the commitment to retain the Higher Education Participation and Partnership Programme (HEPPP). Subsequently, the [HEPPP Evaluation Report](#) was made available (see 'Reports and Resources') which identified 2679 HEPP projects across 37 universities, engaging 310,000 students between 2010 and 2015. Some 40% plus of programs and funding supported low Socio-Economic Status (SES) students starting, studying, and completing university.

Close to 20% of funding was allocated to work with students who are both Indigenous and from low SES backgrounds. [Universities Australia](#) endorsed the program further and commended the current government on adopting the key recommendations.

Until now, university [enabling programs](#) have been subsidised by the government - and are therefore free for students. Announced in the higher education reform package, a new plan will shift the cost to students which may deter some students and potentially affect who is able to access higher education.

[Many Australian universities may be in surplus, but does that mean there's fat to cut?](#) Mark Warburton from the LH Martin Institute reacted to the proposed 2.5% efficiency dividend (HE Reform Package) and notes that while it might be correct that many universities are in surplus this is not the same thing as a profit.

The [Regional Universities Network](#) (RUN) has formally opposed the proposed reforms to higher education noting that the changes will disproportionately hurt regional universities. [Innovative Research Universities](#) (IRU) have also opposed the reforms and have made a formal submission to the Senate Education Committee.

Vocational education

One of Australia's largest education and training provider groups has suspended operations, affecting some 15,000 domestic and international students and 1,000 staff. Careers Australia Group, which operated 11 education

organisations around Australia, entered voluntary receivership in late May after it was refused access to the new [VET Student Loan scheme](#) earlier this year.

Increased [regulatory powers](#) have also been announced to veto unscrupulous vocational education providers accessing both higher education and international education. The [Education Legislation Amendment \(Provider Integrity & Other Measures\) Bill 2017](#), which incorporates changes to the ESOS, TEQSA and HESA Acts is now before Australia's House of Representatives.

The federal government has announced [a review of the legislation underpinning the national training regulator, Australia Skills Quality Authority \(ASQA\)](#), which will be led by Valerie Braithwaite, Professor of Regulatory Studies in the Regulatory Institutions Network at the Australian National University.

Other news ...

Queensland University of Technology's [Caboolture campus](#) will be transferred to the University of the Sunshine Coast (USC) by next year. The transfer comes after an announcement last year that USC would build a full campus in the nearby Petrie area. USC Vice Chancellor Greg Hill said the university would [expand the educational platform](#) established by QUT at Caboolture.

The Australian Government has released the Higher Education Standards Panel's discussion paper on [Improving Completion, Retention and Success in Higher Education](#) and has invited submissions to this consultation process. The Chair of the Panel, Professor Peter Shergold said: "There are two things that we lack very significantly: an understanding of why people at a personal level are leaving and whether, indeed, this is a good thing or a bad thing. Universities are very bad at doing effective exit interviews or follow-up...We need a much more detailed understanding about whether people are making career passports for themselves or wasting the investment they have made and the government has made on their behalf."

Australia has bolstered its popularity as a world class education destination with [new data](#) showing international student numbers jumped up by 15% in the first three months of this year compared to 2016. [Minister for Education and Training Simon](#)



[Birmingham](#) said the surging international student numbers came on top of growth of around 10.5% since the Coalition government came to power in 2013.

However, in *University World News* Bob Birrell from the Australian Population Research Institute has claimed that universities have become too reliant on foreign students and outlines a timeline of policy and activity in the past decade.

Australia's largest philanthropic gift includes a donation of \$65 million to five West Australian institutions. The gift, which is part of a [\\$400m donation](#) by mining magnate Andrew Forrest and his wife Nicola, is the single largest donation to Australian higher education. The \$400m gift will also direct money to cancer research, antislavery and community building.

[Reported in Campus Morning Mail](#) (13 June): Three vice chancellors and the University of Melbourne provost are appointed to the Order of Australia in the Queen's Birthday honours list. Ian O'Connor, the long serving VC of Griffith University, becomes an AC while Linda Kristjanson (Swinburne University) and Peter Dawkins (Victoria University) join as AO's. The University of Melbourne's provost, Margaret Sheil also becomes an AO.

[New Zealand Budget Summary](#)

The New Zealand higher education sector has welcomed some targets of the tertiary education provision from this year's Budget, but pointed out many gaps as well. [The \\$132.1 million allocation for Tertiary Education, Skills and Employment](#) includes:

- \$69.3 million for increased tuition subsidy rates at qualification level three and above, supporting providers to continue to deliver quality skills for industry.
- \$52.5 million for the Performance-Based Research Fund (PBRF) to promote high quality research in tertiary education.
- \$6.8 million to support sustainable growth in the international education sector to strengthen the net benefit to New Zealand and its value to our regions.
- \$3.5 million of reprioritised funding to meet increased demand for workplace-based literacy and numeracy programmes in 2018, giving more people the skills and confidence to engage in the workplace and community.

Universities New Zealand Chair, Professor Stuart McCutcheon, has welcomed the increases to research funding, acknowledging the additional funding for the PBRF and the Endeavour fund. However, Professor McCutcheon also expressed disappointment that the government has failed to substantially increase its investment in teaching and learning: "The 1% increase across-the-board tuition subsidy increase announced today is below the expected Consumer Price Index of 2.2%. So university funding isn't even keeping up with cost increases," he said.

[Rankings](#)



June 8 was the official release date for the 2017/2018 [QS World University Rankings](#) with seven [Australian institutions in the top 100](#): ANU, University of Melbourne, UNSW, UQ and the University of Sydney made the top 50. [New Zealand universities performed exceptionally well also](#). The University of Waikato emerged most improved amidst a strong performance by New Zealand universities in a new international ranking. Five NZ universities gained places in the annual QS World University Rankings with all but Auckland University of Technology (AUT) among the top 350.

The [Leiden](#) research rankings, which uses Web of Science data to rank research impact were also announced. In Australia, the Group of Eight fared well again in terms of impact and in terms of all publications. The University of Auckland, University of Otago, Massey University, Canterbury University and Victoria University in Wellington also performed well.

Reuters' annual ranking of the Asia Pacific region's [Most Innovative Universities](#) for the second year running, placed South Korea's [KAIST](#) first. Formerly known as the Korea Advanced Institute of Science and Technology, it is the nation's oldest research-oriented science and engineering university, with campuses in Daejeon, Seoul and Busan.

The latest Universitas21 rankings [report](#) singles out the New Zealand government for criticism for its reduction in tertiary education funding. The report shows that New Zealand's higher education sector ranks 15th in the world overall, despite the fact that New Zealand (along with

Argentina, Iran and the Czech Republic) experienced the greatest falls in resourcing. Chris Whelan, Executive Director of Universities New Zealand, says the ranking is a great reflection of a sector that works hard to ensure quality, relevance and connectivity across its teaching and research activities. However, he said the drop in funding was concerning. "It should be of concern to all New Zealanders that official statistics show that the New Zealand government's expenditure on tertiary education institutions is below the OECD average".

[International](#)

[Ireland: new bill to pave way for long-awaited International Education Mark](#) Plans to introduce a long-awaited International Education Mark (IEM) in Ireland may finally be realised. The IEM, a stamp of quality that [providers will need](#) to obtain to recruit international students, is one of a number of measures covered in a [draft outline](#) of the Qualifications and Quality Assurance (Amendment) Bill, published on May 15. Also included in the document are promises to clamp down on 'essay mills' that sell completed essays and dissertations to students and to strengthen the role of the higher and further education regulator, [Quality and Qualifications Ireland](#).

Of interest, an article about Ireland's new strategy around international education, 'Ireland's New Era', is worth reading in [The Pie Review #14](#).

[New Zealand tightens migrant visa conditions](#). The New Zealand government has issued a second round of changes for high- and low-skilled migrant worker visas, this time raising the minimum salary. The move has stirred up uncertainty among educators and agents.

And following the previous, an interesting interview with Universities New Zealand executive director [Chris Whelan in The PIE News](#) this month. Chris discusses both the drawbacks for international students and the specific focus on the Asia Pacific region.

The New Zealand Productivity Commission has completed its inquiry into the [New Models of Tertiary Education](#). The report is a broad-ranging inquiry into how well New Zealand's tertiary education system is set up to respond to emerging trends in technology and the internationalisation of education, and changes in the



structure of the population, and the skills needed in the economy and society. As part of the inquiry, the Commission was asked to identify potential barriers to innovation.

With an estimated 400 million people in developing countries lacking access to a higher education, United States universities seeking to internationalise have only scratched the surface of the opportunity to help meet the world's need for affordable, globally accessible and high-quality education. New models for transnational education in the form of micro-campus are emerging with the [University of Arizona](#) adding 11 additional micro-campus agreements to their existing two.

[University World News](#) has reported that Hong Kong will act as a 'super connector' to the Chinese mainland and Asian region through deeper international collaborations that include universities, Hong Kong's Secretary for Education Eddie Ng told the Going Global conference in London last week.

Thailand is set to issue a [new decree](#) that will allow foreign universities to operate in its special economic zones under a plan approved last week by the cabinet and military junta, also known as the National Council for Peace and Order, led by Prime Minister Prayut Chan-ocha

Despite the efforts of governments and higher education institutions in Jordan, Lebanon and Turkey to respond to the Syrian refugee crisis, higher education opportunities are still limited and often inadequate, according to a study of [Syrian youth in the three countries](#).

And in the UK, the [Labour Party](#) claimed it wanted to abolish higher education tuition fees for students in England if it won the general election held this month (and we know how that turned out!). From as early as September 2017 students would no longer be subject to the highest tuition fees on average of any country in the world. Watch this space.

As England prepares to unveil its controversial teaching excellence framework (TEF) ratings and the Australian government plans to award a portion of teaching funding on the basis of "performance," [German university leaders](#) have argued that comparing teaching quality is a near impossible task.

[Combating Initiative Fatigue: Unifying and Integrating Student Success Initiatives](#). *EdSurge* examined issues of

fatigue and burnout from continual 'change initiatives' in US institutions with case studies including examples of predictive analytics programs.

Word of the month: Phigital

According to [3 must know's about the rising "phigital" student-and why their impact is enormous](#), to be phigital is unwilling or unable to draw a distinction between the physical world and its digital equivalent.

BIG DATA, ONLINE LEARNING, ANALYTICS & TECHNOLOGY

[3 questions all campus leaders should be able to answer](#). In *eCampus News*: While colleges and universities are eager to leverage institutional analytics, it is time for them to think bigger and broader. Doing so will open up a realm of possibilities not yet tapped, creating the opportunity to ask more complex questions and find solutions that better serve and support students.

Also in *eCampus News*, [How to get the most out of your move to the cloud](#) which notes that no matter which cloud deployment you use, data reduction delivers economic benefits that make the cloud business case more compelling.

[Institutions must think broader when utilizing analytics](#). When looking to leverage analytics, institutions should ask questions around whether the students being recruited are those most likely to succeed there, what the patterns around degree completion are and how to improve them, and how students can be segmented into subpopulations for better service.

Institutions are increasingly turning to predictive analytics to help determine if students will enroll, and if so, whether or not they'll need support to stay on track for graduation. But this data use begs the question—[are decision-makers using the data ethically?](#)

Some insights from Mary's Meeker's annual [Internet Trends Report](#) (2016, US-centric): 3.4 billion internet users; Americans spend 5.6 hours a day engaged on digital media. 3.1 hours on mobile and 2.2 hours on laptop/desktop; about 4-in-10 (37%) dollars spent on global IT infrastructure (\$36 billion) goes to cloud spending, up from 2-in-10 dollars (21%) in 2013. [Inside Higher Ed](#) followed

this up with implications for higher education after examining these trends

[EDUCAUSE's latest review](#) of trends and strategic technologies associated with Integrated Planning and Advising for Student Success (iPASS). Trends include blending of roles and blurring of boundaries between IT and academic/administrative areas, data drive decision making and institution-wide data management and integrations. Technologies includes mobile apps for institutional BI/analytics, technologies for integrating student records data across case management systems and flexible interactive platforms for descriptive and predictive analytics of institutional data.

[Visualization and the Three V's: Managing and Leveraging Data in Enrollment Management](#). *The Evollution* examined managing the three 'V's in big Data: Volume; Variety and; Velocity.

From LinkedIn, [Why future HR leaders will be like data scientists](#)

And finally, [A blockchain explanation your parents could understand](#) (because some of us are still trying to come to grips with this terminology ...)

GRADUATE OUTCOMES AND EMPLOYABILITY

[This Will Go on Your Permanent Record! How Blockchains Can Transform Colleges in a Networked World](#) Utilising blockchain technology, it is now possible to create a decentralised academic transcript. Unlike today's standard, centralised transcripts, which are secure and tamperproof but inadaptable to the modern, digital student, these decentralised transcripts would be secure and tamperproof but also open to outside transaction blocks from an entire network of contributors

The long-awaited [VET Unique Student Identifier](#) is now active. The [USI](#) provides people with an online record of their training records, across states and between providers, which they can share as they choose. The USI will greatly assist individuals who need to demonstrate qualifications, and employers who need to know if a job applicant can do what they say. The system starts with 2015 records.

Former University of Canberra VC Stephen Parker's piece in *The Australian* [Readiness for work trends of the future is](#)



[essential to success](#) sees micro-credentialing becoming increasingly popular.

The Daily Telegraph has launched the [Project Sydney Campaign](#) to raise awareness about the need to create jobs for young people amid soaring population growth and the changing employment landscape. The target of the campaign is to spur businesses from a diverse range of industries to take on 1000 placements in 30 days. The reason behind the campaign is a result of the importance of work experience for young people, not only to get a foot in the door, but also to see how modern workplaces operate.

LEARNING & TEACHING

[OER Pioneer David Wiley Predicts All Community Colleges Will Dump Traditional Textbooks By 2024](#). In *EdSurge* this month, Avid Wiley, a pioneer of open education resources who [co-founded Lumen Learning](#), a for-profit company that supports OER efforts, sees one place where textbooks could actually be vanquished by openly licensed alternatives: community colleges.

[Reforms to copyright laws](#) will remove red tape and barriers to providing educational content for disabled students. The changes to legislation will significantly improve access to copyrighted content for people with a vision, hearing or intellectual disability, said Communications Minister Mitch Fifield.

Whilst the focus of this report is on early school leavers, it has flow-on implications and relevance for the higher education sector. The [Counting the costs of lost opportunity in Australian education](#) report released by the Victoria University's Mitchell Institute found that [One in eight students will fail to attain a Year 12 qualification](#), and some of these people make up the one in eight Australians who will be disengaged from the workforce for most of their lives. The report estimated that the cost to taxpayers of 38,000 19-year-olds - about one in four - not achieving their Year 12 certificate is \$315 million each year and more than \$12.6 billion over a lifetime.

Legal education is undergoing a rapid transformation [aimed at producing lawyers for a legal sector that is embracing technology](#). George Williams,

who is Dean of Law at the University of NSW, says the rise of technology in the legal sector means lawyers are already working with expert computer systems. This meant law schools needed to integrate technology within legal education and focus on the factors where lawyers could still add value: integrity, ethics, professional relationships, creativity and imagination.

RESEARCH

The Australian [NHMRC released information](#) about improvements to their funding program in late May. The previous grants scheme has been replaced with a new model designed to encourage long-term research ending the need for multiple applications for the one project.

From 2020, the NHMRC will allocate research funds (around \$800m a year) in four streams;
Investigator grants: Money for salary and support (40% funding)
Synergy grants: \$5m each for multi-disciplinary research projects (5%)
Ideas grants (25%)
Strategic and leveraging grants: priority driven research in areas of national need (30%).

On June 5, the [Australian Research Council](#) (ARC) released the names of 17 new Laureate Fellows, nine new training centres, three research hubs and 91 new fellows. UQ and Sydney tied for top spot in terms of dollars, each attracting \$22m. The [government](#) noted this round of \$170 million for research continues a tradition of investment in fundamental and applied research projects.

Listed United Kingdom technology investor IP Group will pour AU\$200 million into commercialising research at top universities in Australia and New Zealand. The deal between the London-based IP Group, the Group of Eight and the University of Auckland was an acknowledgment of the depth and quality of Australian research, according to [Group of Eight chairman Peter Hoj](#).

Open Access publishing

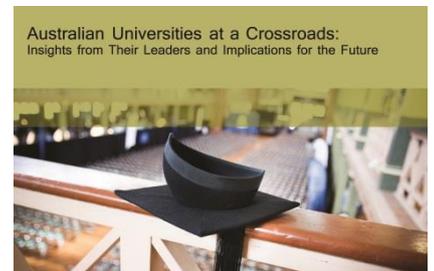
Since academic blogger and scholarly communications librarian Jeffrey Beall took down his list of predatory journals, there has been some discussion regarding what, if anything, should replace or monitor open access publishing, specifically academic

journals. An article in [The Conversation](#) early this year summarised the issue nicely. As well, [Andy Pleffer and Susan Shrubbs](#) from Macquarie University outlined the current milieu in a blog on the Australian Open Access Strategy Group's website (which moves forward the discussion from 'predatory publishers' to 'quality publishing'). Of note, Beall is being subjected to [harassment](#) from a website called [Scholarlyoa.net](#) so it's all getting a bit ugly.

In mid-June Cabell's International, who provide a comprehensive journal directory, have offered a pay-to-view blacklist of predatory journals. [Andrew Silver](#) previewed the new service in *Nature* (May 31).

Too amusing not to acknowledge: [Peering into Peer Review](#). A blog from Library Babel Fish in *Inside Higher Ed* discusses some rather major holes in peer review from a recent hoax whereby a fake article managed to get published.

(MORE) REPORTS AND RESOURCES



[Australian Universities at a Crossroads: Insights from Their Leaders and Implications for the Future](#)

Source: *Melbourne Centre for the Study of Higher Education and Berkeley Center for Studies in Higher Education*. Authors: William Lacy, Gwilym Croucher, Andre Brett and Romina Mueller

The study involved 117 interviews and surveys with university and higher education leaders in Australia (2015-2016) as well as an extensive review of the literature. 114 responses to a survey of 32 issues facing the future of Australian universities. Those interviewed broadly believed that the sector has performed well in research and education, has played a key role in Australian society, and has often served as a model internationally. However, nearly all the leaders felt there are



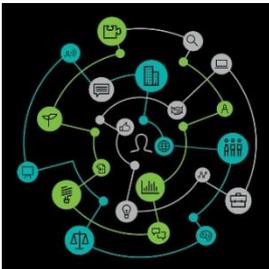
significant issues facing the sector as it has become more diverse, increasingly complex, financially challenged, and internationally dependent.

Of interest - Leaders in the Go8 saw **International rankings** as more important than the other university groups. On the other hand, the ATN leaders viewed **Promotion of technology transfer** and **Student accessibility** as more important than other groups. Interestingly, the non-affiliated universities noted that **Federal budget support**, **Role of state government**, and **Student financial aid** were more important to them than to other university leaders.

[Sector Voices: The biggest challenge currently facing New Zealand education](#)

Source: Education Review

Education Review asked a wide range of prominent people from within the education sector in New Zealand, from school through to the tertiary level, and asked them what they perceived to be the biggest challenge currently facing New Zealand education.



[Soft skills for business success: Building Australia's future workforce](#)

Source: Deloitte Access Economics

DeakinCo. asked Deloitte Access Economics to assess the importance of obtaining and measuring soft skills to better understand areas that need to be improved in the Australian workforce and businesses. The report forecasts that soft skill intensive occupations will account for two-thirds of all jobs by 2030, compared to half of all jobs in 2000. The number of jobs in soft-skill intensive occupations is expected to grow at 2.5 times the rate of jobs in other occupation.

[Perceptions are not reality: Myths, realities and the critical role of vocational education and training in Australia](#)



Source: Skilling Australia Foundation

This report is an overview of the trends currently impacting the Australian workforce and shows the key role of the VET sector. It also highlights the need to prioritise, promote and position the sector to respond competently to the current needs and opportunities of the Australian economy.



[HEPPP Evaluation Final Report](#)

Source: Australian Department of Education and Training

The report presents the findings and recommendations of the 2016 evaluation of the Higher Education Participation and Partnerships Program (HEPPP). The HEPPP was established in 2010 and funds universities to 'undertake activities and implement strategies that improve access to undergraduate courses for people from low SES backgrounds and improve their retention and completion rates.

Notes: As you will recall, the Higher Education Reform package released pre-budget noted:

The Higher Education Participation and Partnerships Program (HEPPP) will be reformed to deliver two components—an Access and Participation Fund that involves a loading for each eligible low SES student, with performance funding for improvements in success rates of low SES and Indigenous students, and a National Priorities Pool (to commence 2018).

Funding from the Access and Participating Fund will be provided in two streams while the National Priorities Pool will have an allocation of \$9.5 million per year.

Additionally, Dr Nadine Zacharias from the [NCSEHE](#) has released a major review of the HEPPP with strategies on how institutions do more to support students. The report is the principle outcome of her Equity Fellowship with the Centre: [The Australian Student Equity Program and Institutional Change.](#)

[Data Availability and Use: Productivity Commission Inquiry Report \(No. 82\)](#)

Source: Australian Government Productivity Commission.

This large report's recommendations (more than 600 pages, the overview document itself is around 70 pages) are aimed at moving to a system based on transparency and confidence in data processes, treating data as an asset and not a threat and the creation of a data sharing and release structure. Findings and recommendations point to a comprehensive reform of Australia's data infrastructure and include:

- A more accurate definition and greater transparency of consumer data (and additional responsibilities afforded to the ACCC);
- Establishment of the Office of the National Data Custodian (NDC) to take overall responsibility for the implementation of data management policy (in consultation with levels of government);
- Accreditation of public sector and public interest entities as release authorities;
- Streamlining approval process for human research ethics committees;
- Legislative reform with the new Data Sharing and Release Act

Also: In last month's newsletter we reported on the release of the 2016 *National Research Infrastructure Roadmap*. In late May, the [National Collaborative Research Infrastructure Strategy 2017-2019](#) was released. According to the guidelines this is a transitional arrangement until the government responds to the roadmap. \$152m has been allocated for this year and \$156m next for the following year.

On 6 June 2017, TEQSA published a new report on [Characteristics of Australian higher education providers and their relation to first-year student attrition.](#)

TEQSA's study differs from previous research by focusing on institutional characteristics that may be linked to higher levels of attrition, rather than characteristics of individual students – consistent with the agency's regulatory approach which assesses each provider.

ON THE MOVE

Scott Williams is the new Deputy chancellor of the University of the

Sunshine Coast. He has served on its council since 2012. Mr Williams previously served for 15 years on the University of New England council, including a term as Deputy Chancellor.

Chair of the Cooperative Research Centres Association, **Tony Staley** is standing down after 20 years in the position.

University of Melbourne law school head **Carolyn Evans** has been appointed DVC and Deputy Provost for Graduate Education.

Fabian Marrone is Monash University's new Chief Marketing Officer.

Kerri-Lee Krause is leaving Victoria University for La Trobe University. Professor Krause is now DVC and Provost at VU and will become DVC Academic at La Trobe in July.

The Vice-Chancellor of the University of Melbourne, **Glyn Davis**, has told staff and students an international search for his successor had begun - 18 months before his contract ends

Geraldine Mackenzie is returning to the University of Southern Queensland as Vice-Chancellor. She was Foundation Dean of Law there in 2007-08 before moving to Bond University. She is now DVC Research at Southern Cross University. Professor Mackenzie replaces Jan Thomas who moved to become Vice-Chancellor at Massey University.

Adrian Miller will become PVC Indigenous Leadership at Charles Darwin University in July. Adrian is now Academic Director of Indigenous Education and Research at Griffith University.

Shaun Ewen has been appointed PVC (Indigenous) at the University of Melbourne. Professor Ewen will also continue as director of the university's Poche Centre for Indigenous Health.

Mark MacMillan is RMIT's inaugural DVC Indigenous Education and Engagement.

Swinburne University's former PVC Learning Engagements **Mike Keppell** has left. PVC Education and Quality Chris Pilgrim now leads learning transformation and is recruiting for a director level position to lead a learning transformation unit.

Peter Rathjen is the incoming Vice-Chancellor of the University of Adelaide, replacing Warren Bebbington who left

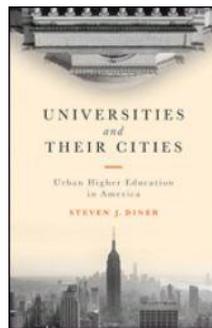
last month. The genetics scientist will leave the University of Tasmania, where he has served as VC for close to seven years to take over at Adelaide early next year.

Macquarie University's Research Director **Louise Fleck** has joined the CRC Association Board.

Deakin University has appointed **Sandeep Gopalan**, PVC Academic Innovation. Professor Gopalan recently stood down as Dean of the university's Law School

Edith Cowan Chief Information Officer **Elizabeth Wilson** is leaving the university after five years. She is returning to Victoria to become CIO at the state's department of education and training.

BOOK REVIEWS



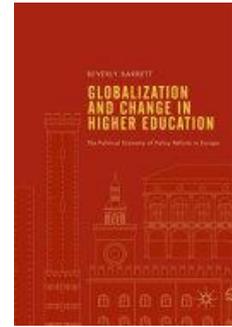
Universities and Their Cities

Steven J. Diner

Today, a majority of American college students attend school in cities. But throughout the nineteenth and much of the twentieth centuries, urban colleges and universities faced deep hostility from writers, intellectuals, government officials, and educators who were concerned about the impact of cities, immigrants, and commuter students on college education.

In *Universities and Their Cities*, Steven J. Diner explores the roots of American colleges' traditional rural bias and asks: Why were so many people, including professors, uncomfortable with nonresident students? And how, improbably, did much-maligned urban universities go on to profoundly shape contemporary higher education across the nation?

(see also, author interview in [Inside Higher Ed](#))



Globalization and Change in Higher Education: The Political Economy of Policy Reform in Europe

Beverly Barrett

This book sets out political economy explanations for higher education policy reform in Europe in the initial decades of the 21st century. With a sustained focus on the national level of policy implementation, institutional change is considered in relationship to broader trends in economic development and globalization. As part of multi-method research analysis, this book presents qualitative case studies on Portugal and Spain to consider points of comparison, including national governance history and modernization of higher education institutions

(Book suggestion from Louise Hargreaves)

POSITIONS VACANT

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.

Editor's note: There are plenty of vacancies at the moment – please explore these at www.aair.org.au/pages/higher-education-jobs.

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.

26th National VET Research Conference



5 to 7 July, Hobart

Register now for the [26th National Vocational Education and Training Research Conference 'No Frills'](#), to be held at TasTAFE Drysdale Campus in Hobart, Tasmania.

Join the National Centre for Vocational Education Research (NCVER) for an exciting program, featuring over 50 presentations and poster sessions addressing the theme *Skilling for tomorrow*.

Digital Campus and Blended Learning Innovation: The New Era of Teaching and Learning



18-20th of July, Melbourne, Australia

The conference will bring forward case studies from institutions across Australia and abroad, allowing you to gain insights into best practices and benchmark your institution's progress against industry leaders.

Bluenotes Americas 2017

1-4 August 2017 The Brown Hotel
Louisville, KY United States

This year's *Bluenotes Americas Conference* theme is 'Higher Education in the 21st Century: Using Data to Respond to Opportunities and Challenges'. A three-day conference to connect, share expertise, and learn from best practices.



29-31 August 2017, Intercontinental,
Sydney

The Higher Education Summit will see Vice-Chancellors from across Australia discussing the critical forces that are shaping the future of the sector.

EAIR 2017

3-6 September 2017

[EAIR](#) is the European Association for Institutional Research (International association for higher education researchers, practitioners, managers and policy-makers). There will be eight major tracks: governance and management, teaching and learning, quality management, strategy and strategising, professionals, performance and assessment, funding and regional innovation.

Universities Australia Marketing Communications and Development Conference



6-7 September 2017

A UA signature event run by the sector for the sector, bringing together marketers, communications teams, media officers and development officers from the higher education sector to share best practice and new ideas in a rapidly transforming marketing landscape

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

Tertiary Education Management Conference 2017

17-20 September 2017, Crown
Convention Centre, Melbourne



The TEMC this year will be exploring the theme *Eureka*. The conference will be revolutionary in exploring ideas that encourage and create fabulous discussion, innovation, awesome networking and important information sharing.

Service Improvement and Innovation in Universities

19-20 October 2017, Pier One, Sydney Harbour

This year's conference will sharpen the focus on innovation; what innovation is in tertiary education and skills for creating innovation.

28th ISANA International Education Association & 22nd Australia and New Zealand Student Services Association Conferences



5-8 December 2017, STAR, Gold Coast, Australia

The theme for the conference is *Widening Perspectives of Student Success*.

The conference will give us the opportunity to explore and discuss the many factors that contribute to the overall student success, both within and outside the classroom. There will be an exciting program of speakers, workshops, social activities and lots of networking opportunities. Delegates will be able to share successful strategies, engage with key stakeholders and develop important partnerships.

INSTITUTIONAL RESEARCHER'S CORNER

Five questions with Dr Anne Statham, Queensland University of Technology



What is your job title?

Principal, Institutional Research & Strategy

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

My position is located in QUT's Strategic Intelligence Unit (SIU), which was established to source evidence, broker knowledge and provide decision support for QUT leadership. Reporting directly to the Vice-Chancellor and led by Dr Sam Nielsen, SIU is a small, eclectic team that also includes data scientists and a corporate reviewer. Our activities are geared to guiding the University's strategic direction, and informing decision making and policy formation in support of QUT's mission and objectives.

I take a broad perspective on institutional research that is inclusive of strategic research projects, benchmarking, survey outcomes, rankings and other reputational impacts, and environmental scanning. My role involves extracting strategic value from diverse evidence sources; identifying opportunities, challenges and risks for QUT; and preparing discussion documents and executive briefs. Apart from facilitation of QUT's participation in the UniForum



professional staff and academic management collections, I have no ongoing survey management responsibilities.

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

- Pinning down the nebulous concepts of quality and value from a student-centred perspective; working out what we mean by quality and value in an era of technological change, rising costs, changing demographics, emphasis on employer-aligned outcomes and political uncertainty
- Thoughtful and ethical use of mainstreamed data analytics to elucidate organisational characteristics, inform strategic planning and empower students
- Reputation management, including appropriate responses to rankings
- Closing gaps between strategic planning and implementation; replacing siloed traditions with cohesive, proactive and directional strategic agendas.

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

- Embracing chaos, being alert and responsive to change, mess management
- Capitalising on opportunities to learn from other sectors; developing new forms of collaboration
- Balancing supply and demand of easily accessed, timely, secure and targeted information across the University
- Continued definition and demonstration of the value of higher education
- Consolidation of the third-space role of institutional research; a diminishing of role ambiguity and lack of skill recognition.

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

The short answer: Coffee, Google, social media and, of course, the SIU team.

A more nuanced answer would also acknowledge that I've found qualifications and experience in communication, marketing, sociology and academia to be beneficial in this increasingly interdisciplinary institutional-researcher-as-knowledge-broker role.

CALL FOR CONTRIBUTIONS

The Institutional Researcher Issue 7, July 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 mid-July. Please send your contributions to the editor@aaair.org.au by **Monday 17 July 2017**.



AAIR on Twitter [@AAIRaustralia](https://twitter.com/AAIRaustralia)



Monica Chen and Tracy Creagh
The Institutional Researcher Editors.