



 **AAIR Newsletter September 2018**

Mapping the (whole) education landscape



**REGISTERED FOR THE 2018 AAIR
FORUM YET?**

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CORNER INTERVIEW**
FIVE QUICK QUESTIONS WITH DAN
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BOOK REVIEWS
PLUS A RANGE OF INTERESTING
REPORTS AND NEW PUBLICATIONS
THIS MONTH. SEE **PAGE 7-11**

Photo by [Paolo Nicoletto](#) on [Unsplash](#)

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Don't miss your chance to be part of the AAIR Forum 2018!

The Annual AAIR Forum is the leading institutional research event in Australasia, and is an ideal place for you to expand your sector knowledge. Join with the many institutions who continue to support the Forum and enjoy what we anticipate will be an exceptional event.



The [Forum program](#) is guaranteed to challenge and excite as specialists share their rich experience, discuss key topics, and strategize in response to the ever-changing higher education sector. [Keynote speakers](#) include:

- [Kerri-Lee Krause](#), Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic) and Professor of Higher Education, La Trobe University;
- [Christine M Keller](#), PhD., Executive Director of the Association for Institutional Research (AIR), Tallahassee, Florida; and
- [James Fazzino](#), Vice-Chancellor's Fellow, La Trobe University, Chairman, Manufacturing Australia, Member of Male Champions of Change Institute.



Kerri-Lee Krause

Christine M. Keller

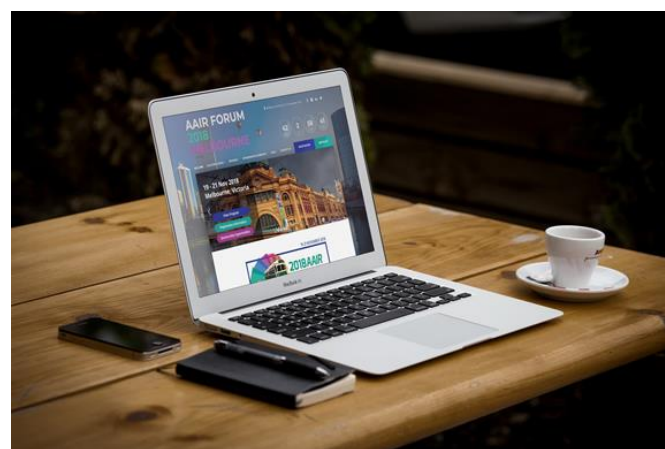
James Fazzino

This year's theme, *Reflecting on the Past, Experiencing the Present, Shaping the Future*, will encourage conversations and questions about the value of higher education and the changing role of the institutional researcher.

Evidence-based strategic planning and continuous quality improvement, supported by a solid survey and evaluations framework, are on the agenda. All of this is underpinned by business intelligence, analytics, visualisation and modelling.

Pre-Forum workshops and Special Interest Groups will run on the day prior to the main Forum, with sessions including a full day survey manager's workshop. AAIR welcomes new and experienced presenters and a presenter briefing tailored to new presenters will be held on the 19th November. As always, there will be plenty of networking opportunities, including the welcome reception and dinner both to be held at uniquely Melbourne venues.

If you haven't already, [register now](#) and join in the conversation, as well as the unique social program, or just eat a donut off the wall!



With thanks, from

*The 2018 AAIR Forum
Local Organising Committee*

EDITORIAL

The highly anticipated (by me at least) report from the Grattan Institute *Mapping Australian higher education 2018* has been released (see brief summary p. 9). The report shows that in 2016 a record 41 per cent of Australian 19-year-olds were enrolled in higher education institutions. Our recommended summary is the [podcast](#) from HE Program Director Andrew Norton and Fellow Ittima Cherastidham. The value of the report is comprehensive. Not only does it present a range of data sources that map outcomes and trends, it also outlines and describes the Australian higher education landscape. This year, the Grattan Institute has explored the topic of graduate employment and earnings in some depth (see [Mapping Australian higher education 2018](#), Chapter 10).

And for something a little different, our Institutional Researcher this month is Dan Jolley, PhD candidate in the School of Psychology at Curtin University. AAIR sponsored Dan Jolley as part of the Early Career Researcher Scholarship to present at the [27th National VET Research Conference 'No Frills'](#) in Sydney in August. Dan's research reflects the pivotal role VET plays in education.

Finally, AAIR is currently on the look-out for a new [Newsletter Editor for 2019](#). I can't recommend this role enough and if you would like more information please email the Executive Officer at info@aaair.org.au or email me at editor@aaair.org.au with any questions.

SECTOR NEWS AND VIEWS



(Image from [Gwen Blake @Glamgwenblake](#))

[Universities Australia](#) wasted no time urging new Prime Minister Scott Morrison to overturn the effective cap on student places imposed last December and reverse the Government's \$2.1 billion university funding cuts. Chief Executive Catriona Jackson said she looked forward to working constructively with the new leadership of the country, including newly elected Deputy Liberal leader Josh Frydenberg.

Cabinet re-shuffle: Dan Tehan is the new education minister with Simon Birmingham moving to trade in the new government line-up. The Chair of RUN, Professor Greg Hill, [welcomed](#) the appointment of Dan Tehan MP as Minister for Education, Karen Andrews MP as Minister for Industry, Science and Technology, Sussan Ley MP as Minister for Regional Development, Michaelia Cash as Minister for Small Business, Skills, and Vocational Education and Training.

Editors pick for best summary of events (and some clarity around "where we are at") from *Wonkhe* (September 9) with former *The Australian* HE editor and new *Wonkhe* associate editor Julie Hare [New PM, new minister, same old chaos: what happens next?](#)

Australian Labor party pledges an extra \$174m for disadvantaged uni students. The Federal Labor party is promising to uncap university places if it wins the next election, but crucially now, it is also promising an extra \$174 million to help students from poor areas to enter tertiary education. The [Regional Universities Network \(RUN\)](#) welcomed the

announcement by the Shadow Minister for Education and Training, the Hon Tanya Plibersek as did [Universities Australia](#).

Other news

September has seen the release of two significant reports. As mentioned in the Editorial, [Mapping Australian Higher Education 2018](#) from the Grattan Institute, plus, the OECD's annual [Education at a Glance](#) report. The latter looks at who participates in education, what is spent on it, how education systems operate, and the results achieved. This year's report notes the proportion of public money being spent on private schooling in Australia is higher than in any other advanced economy and has increased significantly over the last decade. In the last decade, tertiary attainment of 25-34 year-olds in Australia had "increased significantly", reaching 52% in 2017. That increase has been especially pronounced among women (analysed and discussed in the new [Grattan report](#)) The OECD report and the Australian outcomes are discussed by Geoff Sharrock, University of Melbourne in *The Conversation* (September 18) in [Australian tertiary education funding is not as low as it seems in OECD metrics](#) and by Julie Hare, in her new role with *Wonkhe*, (September 17) in [Australia puts high price on HE premium](#).

Also, from Julie Hare (*Wonkhe*, September 13). [Protecting the high front gate](#). TEQSA has now [published](#) a report analysing its decisions around new applications for registration and re-registration as a HE provider. The conclusion: it ain't easy.

The National Centre for Student Equity in Higher Education have released a [discussion paper](#) on the need for a new higher education access strategy for Australia through to 2030. The paper is designed to encourage participation in the policy process and sets out eight issues, which will likely shape access to HE in the next decade. They include, the impact of funding constraints and the role of digital delivery, how and why equity should be central to the education system and national objectives and how we define and measure the achievement of equity outcomes. Feedback from written submissions and face-to-face workshops will inform the development of a long-term vision statement, *Student Equity 2030* which will be launched at [World Access to](#)



[Higher Education Day](#) on 28 November 2018.

High university fees and the hefty cost of living in Australia were the reason almost half a survey group of would-be international students decided not to come to the country. QS Enrolment Solutions, a global company that surveys student opinions, said of [more than 3000 international](#) students who wanted to come to Australia in 2017 but ended up not doing so, more than half said they couldn't afford the fees. A similar number said it would be cheaper to study in another country.

[Australian students reluctant to study abroad](#). Unlike their counterparts in many other countries, notably America and many European nations, Australian university students show little enthusiasm for studying outside their own nation. An American search engine optimisation company called SEMrush reports that Australia "is not under any threat of a brain drain anytime soon".

In *The Conversation* (August 16), Gwilym Croucher's article [Size isn't everything when it comes to the proposed UniSA-University of Adelaide merger](#). The [proposed merger](#) between the University of Adelaide and the University of South Australia is building momentum. If it proceeds, it will be the first major merger between Australian higher education institutions in recent times.

London Economics were commissioned by the Group of Eight universities in Australia to undertake an [analysis](#) of the economic contribution of their member universities to the Australian economy. The analysis focused on the 2016 academic year, and estimated the impact associated with the universities' world-class research, the direct, indirect and induced impacts of the institutions' expenditures, educational exports and the impact of teaching and learning activities. The analysis estimated that the total impact of the Group of Eight universities stood at AUD\$66.4 billion in 2016.

The Australian Research Council has [released](#) its response to a Wells Advisory report on support for Indigenous researchers and research. The core recommendation from Wells was that the ARC should redirect some support to Indigenous higher degree research students, postdoc and early career researchers, "in order to broaden the

entry base for ARC-funded Indigenous researchers."

The WA government has [announced](#) a graduate migration list, "to attract the best global talent with the advanced qualifications, skills and experience and help grow Western Australia's share of the international education market."

Victoria University's new block teaching model has [cut the dropout rate](#) and led to students scoring higher grades than last year when students were taught in the traditional way.

[The nation's highest-paid university leaders](#). University leaders are picking up major pay rises, taking the annual average salary of vice-chancellors in NSW and Victoria to just below \$1 million. Michael Spence, the vice-chancellor of Sydney University, is the highest paid of all, having seen his salary rise 60 per cent in just five years to \$1.45 million.

In *The Conversation* (August 30) [Gender quotas and targets would speed up progress on gender equity in academia](#). Recently, the [University of Adelaide](#) used a special exemption under the [Equal Opportunity Act](#) to advertise eight academic positions in the faculty of engineering, computer and mathematical sciences for women only. This raises questions about why a university might take this approach.

Also from *The Conversation* (September 6) Andrew Norton's piece [To fix higher education funding, we also need to fix vocational education](#) "... if universities are to enrol fewer people, we should offer attractive alternatives to university education. To fix higher education, we also need to fix vocational education to help get students into courses with employment opportunities".

The [National Tertiary Education Union](#) has elected new leaders, with marketing and management academic **Alison Barnes** set to become the union's national president. The union's national assistant secretary **Matthew McGowan** has been elected national secretary and West Australian state secretary **Gabe Gooding** has won the role of national assistant secretary. All of them will formally begin in their roles on October 16.

[Seven universities attacked by 'Iran-linked' hackers](#). Iranian government-linked hackers are believed to be responsible for recent attempts to hack

into the computer systems and databases of seven leading Australian universities to steal secret research, according to a senior computer researcher.

["Two-speed economy" a threat for Australian HE, according to Nous](#).

Australia's international higher education sector has developed a pronounced "two-speed economy" and its reliance on China and South Asia raises questions of its ongoing success and susceptibility to downturns, according to a new report from consulting firm Nous.

[Student and staff wellbeing](#)

Brad Wright and Charles Winslade from Charles Sturt University have written for [The Conversation](#) (August 21) on student and staff health and point to the [The Healthy Universities framework](#) as a good example of a holistic approach universities could use to address the risk factors common among staff and students. Instead of having a bunch of separate programs that focus on specific areas of health, a "healthy university" takes a whole-of-institution approach to creating a supportive environment for everyone who works and studies there.

[Universities must ensure their mental health services are fit for purpose](#). The UK Universities Minister Sam Gyimah has written to university Vice Chancellors in England, marking the start of Fresher's Week by calling on them to make the mental health of their students a priority. He has also written an op-ed for the [Huffington Post](#), in which he sets out an expectation on university leaders to focus on pastoral care and to use 'all means in their power to safeguard students from harm.

[Campus News](#)

[Australia's biggest university, Monash, is pulling out of South Africa after 18 years](#).

After 18 years, Australia's Monash University will be pulling out of South Africa, selling out to JSE-listed education group Advtech in a R340 million deal.

[Sydney University heritage listing allows for changing campus needs](#).

Included in the listing, the minister said, was the Main Quadrangle, the gate lodges, St Paul's College, St John's College, St Andrew's College, Women's College, Wesley College and Sancta Sophia College as well as Victoria Park.



Western Sydney council targets new university campus. Western Sydney looks set to host a new university campus, with Blacktown City Council officially calling for expressions of interest from universities across the nation. The council wants a “pop-up” institution in the area by 2020, the document notes, and the first stage of new permanent campus open in time for the 2023 academic year, with an enrolment of about 2500 students.

ACU may axe social justice institute. Students and staff at the Australian Catholic University are outraged by plans to close down its Institute of Social Justice in Sydney, where students and academics now canvass questions of religion, secularism and human rights.

StudyAdelaide and council link up on campaign. StudyAdelaide is aiming to attract international students to the city with the use of Adelaide City Council's marketing campaign “Designed for Life”, with the hope that a consistent campaign across sectors can be “visually impactful”.

Rankings and ratings

The 2019 QS graduate employability ranking has been announced. ANZ institutions that make the top 100 are UNSW (28) UoQ (48), Monash U (49), UTS (64), Auckland (71), ANU (73) and RMIT (85).

There's a new edition of the Spanish National Research Council's bi-annual Ranking Web of Universities. The Consejo Superior de Investigaciones Científicas uses web presence and visibility as indicators of global performance of a university. Indicators include teaching commitment, research results, perceived international prestige and industry and community ties. Results: UniMelb at 60th in the world, UoQ 65th, UNSW 67th, ANU 70th, UniSydney 79th, Monash U 97th, UniAdelaide 126th, UWA at 142nd and UniAuckland at 157th.

Commentary from *University World News* (August 27) Can we measure education quality in global rankings? Without question, teaching is the fundamental mission of most higher education institutions; with few exceptions, undergraduates comprise the majority of students enrolled in higher education worldwide. However, the ‘world-class’ concept is derived from those universities that score highest in global rankings. This

is relatively easy to explain. Research-intensive universities tend to be the best known internationally and hence, the most recognisable in reputational surveys. Bibliometric data is easily captured, albeit that practice continues to undervalue arts, humanities and social sciences research as well as research with a regional or national orientation – especially research published in languages other than English

Twitter announced its follower ranking for Australian university corporate accounts. Rounded to the nearest thousand, as of this month they are: Over 30 000 followers UniMelb – 86 000, UoQ – 80 000, Monash U – 62 000, UniSydney – 62 000, Deakin U – 50 000, UniAdelaide – 48 000, RMIT – 47 000, UNSW – 43 000, UniSA – 37 000, Curtin U – 33 000, LaTrobe U – 31 000

Meanwhile in New Zealand

Universities block course survey results that rate the usefulness of courses. The Tertiary Education Commission told Radio NZ it had sufficient responses to its survey to publish ratings for 639 university qualifications, and 1528 qualifications offered by other types of tertiary institutions. The survey asked recent graduates to rate how well their qualification prepared them for work and whether they would recommend it to others.

Lincoln University and University of Canterbury expected to merge. Lincoln University and the University of Canterbury have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), allowing both parties to explore partnership and merge options. Education Minister Chris Hipkins says the potential merger showed promise and could help improve Lincoln's teaching facilities.

NZQA standardises English testing. Tertiary providers will no longer be able to conduct internal English proficiency testing and instead have to use one of eight “internationally recognised” English tests, including IELTS, TOEFL or PTE, after the body responsible for New Zealand's qualifications framework announced rules changes.

From Universities New Zealand: From the Chair: Managerialism and the modern university. Perspectives from Professor Stuart McCutcheon, vice-Chancellor of The University of Auckland. ... And ...

We need to talk about cheating. In 2018, seven universities have proactive academic integrity policies and are oriented towards education and prevention. The eighth has a recommendation that it review its dishonest and improper academic practice policy.

International news

From Canada, Arbitration decision on student evaluations of teaching applauded by faculty. In a precedent-setting case, an Ontario arbitrator has directed Ryerson University to ensure that student evaluations of teaching, or SETs, “are not used to measure teaching effectiveness for promotion or tenure.” The SET issue has been discussed in Ryerson collective bargaining sessions since 2003, and a formal grievance was filed in 2009.

The Challenges of Creating World-Class Universities in China. Creating World-Class Universities (WCUs) is a national strategy of the central government of China. In October 2015, the State Council issued the “overall plan to push forward the world-class universities initiative and the first-class subject construction”. In October 2017, the Ministry of Education launched the final list of universities and subjects that would be funded by the WCUs plan. Forty-two universities were selected for world-class status and 108 subject areas at 137 universities were selected for preferential support.

Universities recognised as centres of excellence for cyber security research. Three UK universities have been recognised as Academic Centres of Excellence in Cyber Security Research (ACE-CSR), highlighting the breadth of cyber security skills that are being developed in the UK. The universities join 14 other institutions in a scheme forming part of the Government's National Cyber Security Strategy, supporting the country's digital economy. The universities will have the opportunity to bid for funding to develop cutting-edge research in cyber security, including at Doctoral level, as well as attend annual conferences and workshops.

For International Students, Shifting Choices of Where to Study. Around the world there have been shifts in where internationally mobile students are going, with some countries - most notably Canada and Australia - seeing increases, while the traditional top destination countries, the U.S. and the



U.K., see falling or stagnating numbers. And the sudden ordered withdrawal of thousands of Saudi students from Canada has served as a sober reminder for colleges of the geopolitical risks of relying heavily on any single population of international students for tuition revenue. [Nearly half](#) of all international students in the U.S. come from just two countries -- China and India.

[Global network to boost HE capacity and PhD numbers.](#) A higher education network that entails American and South African universities working together will strengthen various aspects of the South African higher education system, including the expansion of the PhD graduate pipeline. The organising members of the [United States-South Africa Higher Education Network](#), launched in Johannesburg recently, are Rutgers University-Newark, the University of Pretoria (UP), the University of Venda, and the Department of Higher Education and Training (DHET), which provided seed funding for the initiative.

BIG DATA, ONLINE LEARNING, ANALYTICS & TECHNOLOGY

[If there were 100 students at Australian universities.](#) Ray Fleming from Microsoft Australia has created some infographics that represent the students at Australian universities using data from uCube and the ABS – worth a look.

[Early-Alert Systems Seen as Mixed Bag.](#) Early-alert systems designed to catch struggling students are ubiquitous in higher education, but not every institution is seeing desired results. *And, the subsequent blog post* [Data and Judgment; Hurricanes and Student Retention](#) which discusses using data in context.

[How Artificial Intelligence Is Changing Teaching.](#) Artificial intelligence is showing up more frequently in college classrooms, particularly at big institutions that are seeking to make large courses more intimate and interactive. A professor at Georgia Tech developed [virtual teaching assistants](#) and tutors. Researchers at Carnegie Mellon University are creating [conversational agents](#) to promote online discussion.

Diane Oblinger from EDUCAUSE has written a piece [Smart Machines and Human Expertise: Challenges for Higher](#)

[Education](#) in which she notes, "There will be no "one-size-fits-all" future. Some higher education institutions may change the structure and flexibility of their programs. Others may focus on competencies and how they are certified. Still others may choose to not change at all".

[Making Analytics Actionable.](#) Data visualisations and strong partnerships can help postsecondary institutions leverage analytics in effective ways, but it's critical to collect the right kind of data and ensure it's being used to support student success.

[Blockchain courses stick for RMIT.](#) RMIT Online, in partnership with Accenture and fintech hub Stone & Chalk, has announced the launch of two blockchain-focused courses expected to provide students with a "comprehensive" overview of the technology. According to RMIT, the courses will detail how to design blockchain infrastructure and how to think strategically about implementing a blockchain solution "into the core of their businesses".

[World first blockchain university seeks accreditation.](#) Woolf University, the brainchild of an Oxford research fellow Joshua Broggi, could become the first blockchain-powered university in the world. It won't be an online university but is to save costs by automating administrative procedures, running on blockchain technology.

...And [What Every College Leader Should Know About Blockchain.](#) mid the hype, the technology really does have major implications for higher education research, accountability and credentials, Daniel Pianko writes for Inside HigherEd (September 5)

[Outrage Over University's \\$999 Online Textbook.](#) An online textbook priced at almost \$1,000 has infuriated students trying to navigate an already confusing textbook marketplace, but Louisiana-Lafayette officials insist they had "good intentions."

[What If Digital Is Antithetical to Learning?](#) Joshua Kim in Inside HigherEd (September 5) explores Three indictments of the role of technology in higher ed instruction.

From *The Evollution* (September 5) [Analyze This! Using Data Effectively.](#) Bringing together qualitative and

quantitative data, analysing it in context and sharing it with powerful visualisations is critical to creating a culture of data-driven management in a postsecondary environment.

From *University World News* (September 9) [Digital transformation still in the early stages](#) How can they best prepare students for the digital world, not only by delivering cutting-edge knowledge about the opportunities and challenges technology offers, but also by making students fully digitally competent for new jobs that do not even exist today?

[Don't forget people in the use of big data for development.](#) In the rush to find technological solutions to complex global problems there's a danger of researchers and others being distracted by the technology and losing track of the key hardships and constraints that are unique to each local context.

[Coursera's CEO on the Evolving Meaning of 'MOOC'.](#) When you can bring huge numbers of students together with lots of well-branded universities and global enterprises seeking a highly skilled workforce, could those linkages be strong enough to forge a new future for massive open online courses?

GRADUATE OUTCOMES AND EMPLOYABILITY

[Life at 23: Then and Now.](#) NCVER compares the latest data from the LSAY 2009 commencing cohort, who were 23-years-old in 2017, with those that went before them 10 years earlier to understand how things have changed over time for young Australians making the transition into adulthood.

New Industry, Science and Technology minister Karen Andrews reports the start of work on the government's ten-year plan to lift women and girls' participation in STEM. The Australian Academy of Science has released a discussion paper and is seeking feedback which will "inform" a roadmap for the plan. Responses to the [discussion paper](#) are due October 8.

[The Evolving Transactional Nature of Credentialing: Alternative Credentials Today.](#) Credentials provide the means of skills verification for educators and employers alike, but traditional methods of credentialing haven't kept pace with technological advancements or market



demand. By shifting towards more granular, skills-based credentialing, higher ed can retain its relevancy in a skills-based workplace.

From *University World News* (September 14) [Detecting fake university degrees in a digital world](#). Using fake diplomas in order to get ahead is not a new phenomenon. As long as there is competition for jobs and admission to higher education, there will be people who are willing to take such shortcuts.

LEARNING & TEACHING

The Innovative Research Universities Group has collaborated with the Malaysia Research University Network on four teaching and learning projects, being [reported](#) recently. One finding by Deborah West, Ann Luzeckj and Richard Price (Flinders University), plus Bill Searle (Charles Darwin University) and Danny Toohey (Murdoch University) is that university management's focus on learning analytics to address attrition, while teaching staff are interested in study specifics, for example, curriculum improvement. The authors also point to difficulties in integrating key learning and teaching data with other relevant information, such as demographics and library-use.

Blog post on Studiosity by Associate Professor Tracey Bretag [Contract cheating in Australian higher education: Implications for teaching and learning](#). Outlines the outcomes from the Australian Government Office for Learning and Teaching commissioned a research project co-led by Associate Professor Tracey Bretag and Dr Rowena Harper (University of South Australia) to explore the relationship between contract cheating and assessment design and a summary of the main finds shared at the [Studiosity Symposium](#) in Sydney on 9 August.

From *Inside HigherEd* (September 12) Will [Trying New Teaching Techniques Tank My Evaluations?](#) Many professors fear that students will punish them for classroom experimentation. A new study suggests otherwise. While [some institutions have begun to de-emphasize](#) student evaluations in their tenure and promotion processes, citing research showing [mounting evidence of bias](#), they remain a force.

RESEARCH

[Euro open access extended](#). On 4 September, 11 national research funding organisations, with the support of the European Commission including the European Research Council (ERC), announced the launch of cOAlition S, an initiative to make full and immediate Open Access to research publications a reality. It is built around 'Plan S', which consists of one target and ten principles. Nature's article on this: [Radical open-access plan could spell end to journal subscriptions](#). Research funders from France, the United Kingdom, [the Netherlands](#) and eight other European nations have [unveiled a radical open-access initiative](#) that could change the face of science publishing in two years — and which has instantly provoked protest from publishers

The Australian Research Council has released the latest [Making a difference— Outcomes of ARC supported research](#) an annual publication produced by the ARC that demonstrates how ARC supported research is making a real difference to Australia and the world.

[Investment in research is vital to lifting Australia's position on global university rankings](#). From the *Financial Review* (August 24) Robert Bolton's opinion piece on the value of investment in research notes: "Global university rankings are far from perfect measures of university quality or impact. With most being heavily research-based, they underplay areas Australian universities regard as high priorities, including outstanding teaching and learning, knowledge transfer, an egalitarian environment, contributions to thought leadership and global impact. Nevertheless, we need to compete in these imperfect rankings because outstanding research is critical to the virtuous cycle that enables our universities to improve lives and have an enormous, positive social impact".

[Too much academic research is being published](#). The decision by *The Review of Higher Education*, a highly respected academic journal, to temporarily suspend submissions due to a backlog of more than two years' worth of articles awaiting reviews or publication set off a twitter storm and much debate in the corridors of academia about the future of academic publishing, and in particular its very foundation, blind peer review.

[Google unveils search engine for open data](#). Google has unveiled a search engine to help researchers locate online data that are freely available for use. The company launched the service on 5 September, saying that it is aimed at "scientists, data journalists, data geeks, or anyone else".

[Open Access at the Movies](#). A new documentary film taking aim at for-profit publishers is about to be screened at universities around the world, but will it further the goals of the open-access movement?

[ORCID bloom ends cut and paste](#). From November researchers will be able to use their Open Researcher and Contributor ID to auto-populate ARC application forms. An ORCID ID ties to individuals' research records and linking it to the ARC's research management system "will reduce the burden of repeated manual entry of publication data."

REPORTS AND RESOURCES



[Mapping Australian higher education 2018](#)

Andrew Norton, Ittima Cherastidtham, Will Mackey, Grattan Institute

After a decade of rapid change, Australian higher education is in a period of consolidation. Participation in higher education (HE) has reached record levels. Health is the key strength of Australia's HE system and international student enrolments are increasing (as well, Australian HE has improved in their position in international rankings). Although new graduate employment has improved since its 2014 low point, the labour market is still tough for younger graduates.





Australian Government
Tertiary Education Quality
and Standards Agency

Statistics Report on TEQSA Registered Higher Education Providers – August 2018

The Statistics Report provides high-level information across four key areas: providers, students, academic staff and finance. This update of the Statistics Report focuses on data relating to 2016. Where available, data relating to 2013, 2014, 2015 and 2016 has been included to enable trend reporting. This year's report includes a special focus topic featuring additional analysis on a current topic of interest to the sector—overseas students.

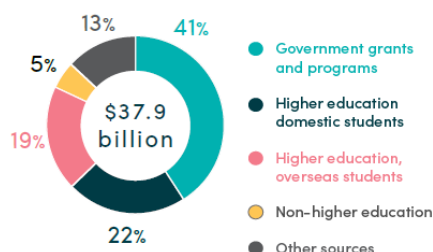


Figure 1: Total revenue 2017



NMC Horizon Report. 2018 Higher Education Edition

Questions regarding technology adoption and educational change steered the discussions of 71 experts (four from Australia) to produce the NMC Horizon Report: 2018 Higher Education Edition. This NMC Horizon Report series charts the five-year impact of innovative practices and technologies for higher education across the globe. Six key trends, six significant challenges, and six developments in educational technology profiled in this report are poised to impact teaching, learning, and creative inquiry in higher education.

Larger themes have emerged as the trends, challenges, and developments have been analysed. Each topic can be placed into one (or more) of six meta-categories that reflect movements in higher education.

1. Expanding access and equity
2. Spurring innovation
3. Fostering authentic learning

4. Leveraging data
5. Improving the teaching profession
6. Spreading digital fluency



Skilling: A National Imperative

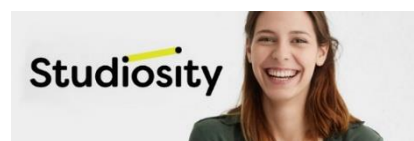
The Australian Industry Group

This report summarises the results from the Workforce Development Needs Survey 2018 and provides the Ai Group with significant data about the workforce development and skills needs of employers. The 2018 survey attracted responses from 298 companies employing a total of 111,209 employees. Australia's employers are facing critical skills shortages and almost all are reporting low levels of literacy and numeracy among employees. They are also encountering difficulties in recruiting employees with STEM skills and in areas such as business automation, Big Data and artificial intelligence solutions.

Survey summary - Higher Education:

- The percentage of employers reporting links with universities and VET providers has *increased* since 2016 while links with secondary schools have been maintained.
- Links with universities *increased* for work placements, partnering for research and project work.
- Employers said the most important form of support in order to link with universities is *accessing examples of student activities* that could assist the business, followed by a relevant point of contact at a local university, and information on supervising and mentoring students.
- Respondents plan to increase or establish new links over next year across all sectors – *most significantly for the higher education sector* (38 per cent), followed by VET sector links (29 per cent) and secondary school links (23 per cent).
- The most important recruiting factor for higher education graduates is the *contribution the graduate will make to the business culture*.
- Satisfaction levels were *highest* for higher education graduates,

followed by VET graduates, and lowest for school leaver applicants.



2018 National student survey: Wellbeing and study responses from Australian students

Studiosity

A total of 1,001 students completed the survey. The responses represented every public Australian university. The questions posed to the students revolved around 1) their emotions towards studying alone, workload, and stress, 2) the initiatives or solutions that could help them feel less stressed and more supported, and 3) their satisfaction with their current university and their predictions for studying in the future. Selection of responses:

- 34% of students identify the amount of study as the most stressful part of studying
- 77% of students studying all night believe all-nighters could be reduced with 24/7 study support
- 69% of students would choose their university again
- The two major responses to how students hope their university will evolve in the next 5-10 years were a) more flexibility in unit choices and b) making it easier for them to study online without feeling like they are missing out

Recommendations:

- Universities create a virtual and face-to-face environment where students feel they are members of a holistic learning community.
- Universities provide support for students to combat stress that arises as part of their educational experience. Such support programs could be wellbeing seminars, and courses that assist students with building skills and habits around help seeking when they need it. Further, many students reported that they aren't aware of the services and programs that are currently available.



ON THE MOVE

Belinda Robinson is the new chair of the Australian Curriculum and Assessment Authority, which manages the NAPLAN school tests. Her appointment was announced by Education Minister Simon Birmingham

Louise Pratt is the new (Australian) shadow assistant minister for universities and equality. Previous assistant shadow **Terri Butler** moves to employment services, workforce participation and future of work.

The Australian Greens also have a new higher education spokeswomen, new NSW senator **Mehreen Faruqi**, sworn in on Monday. She replaces **Sarah Hanson-Young**.

Carolyn Evans will be Griffith University's next VC, replacing long-serving Ian O'Connor. She is now DVC (Graduates and International) and Deputy Provost (graduate education) at the University of Melbourne. Professor Evans was a long-term head of the University of Melbourne law school and appointed DVC in May 2017.

Lisa Jackson Pulver is the new DVC Indigenous Strategy and Services at the University of Sydney. She joins from Western Sydney University. University of Sydney says Professor Jackson Pulver is the first known Indigenous Australian to receive a PhD in medicine from the university.

Deakin DVC Education, **Beverly Oliver** will stand-down from her full-time appointment at year end, after six years. She will continue to work on short-term projects at Deakin University.

Nick Klomp will be the next vice chancellor of CQUniversity. He replaces the retiring Scott Bowman who announced his departure at the beginning of the year. Professor Klomp is now DVC Academic at the University of Canberra.

Pauline Carr is the University of South Australia's new chancellor. She replaces Jim McDowell who resigned to become head of the state's department of premier and cabinet

Graham Goldsmith is standing down as chancellor of Swinburne University, after a four-year term.

Dianne Jolley will become the UTS dean of science in December. She leaves the University of Wollongong.

Jacqueline Tulk is the new campus director at La Trobe University's Sydney campus. LTU Sydney is a Navitas-run pathway program for the university. Ms Tulk joins from partner La Trobe Melbourne.

The University of Queensland has filled two of three senior communications jobs. Chief communication and officer Kelly Robinson announce **Sandra McMullan** is deputy communications director and **Pip McConnell-Oats** is head of brand and creative services.

Media scholar **Amanda Lotz** will join QUT early next year, moving from the University of Michigan. Professor Lotz researches media platforms and channels and is interested to explore "the connections and differences among various internet-distributed media and social media services."

Ilona Charles is CSIRO's new Executive Director, People. Since 2010 she has had HR roles at Medibank Private, Telstra and tech company Aconex.

Director of Alumni and Development **Simone Gaske** is leaving QUT after 25 years with the institution.

Cindy Shannon (ex UQ, now with University of Melbourne) will join QUT next month as professor of indigenous health.

Lina Pelliccione is inaugural PVC of Curtin University's new campus in Mauritius. Professor Pelliccione is now deputy PVC for Curtin's humanities faculty.

Andrew Crane will become chancellor of Curtin University in January, replacing Colin Beckett, who will step down after two terms.

The National Centre for Vocational Education Research has a new managing director. **Simon Walker** will take over in mid-October, moving from the WA Department of Training and Workforce Development. He replaces Craig Fowler who announced his departure in March.

Steven Roberts is confirmed as dean of ANU's College of Business and Economics. Professor Roberts became interim dean last year.

Andrew O'Neil (Griffith University) is appointed chair of the Research Directors' Network at the Australian Business Deans Council.

Michael Egan will stand down as chancellor of Macquarie University in February. At retirement, he will be the university's longest-serving chancellor.

Leanne Harvey is QUT's new Vice-President (Administration) and Registrar. For the last eight years, Leanne has been the Executive General Manager of the Australian Research Council (ARC), introducing major reforms including the Excellence in Research for Australia initiative.

Tyrone Carlin starts work as DVC academic at Southern Cross University on November 1. Professor Carlin moves from the University of Sydney, where he is a professor of financial regulation and reporting.

As mentioned, **Julie Hare**, former HE Editor for *The Australian* is now Associate Editor (Australia) for Wonkhe, a blog and think tank about UK higher education policy, people and politics.

As of February **Cheryl Jones** will be deputy executive dean (academic) in the University of Sydney's Faculty of Medicine and Health. She joins from the University of Melbourne

Leigh Sullivan will join the University of Canberra as DVC Research and Innovation. He moves from the same role at Federation University.

Greg Winslett is the new deputy director of eLearning at UoQ's Institute for Teaching and Learning Innovation, charged with leading "a broader institutional approach". Dr Winslett moves from UNE.

Wendy Cross starts at Federation University as dean of nursing and healthcare, based at the Berwick campus, in Melbourne's outer southeast. She joins from Torrens University.

ANU has a new dean of the College of Health and Medicine. **Russell Gruen** will join in January from Singapore's Nanyang Technological University where he is executive director of the institute for health technologies.

Julie Owens is leaving the University of Adelaide, where she is PVC research strategy and moving to Deakin University



where she will be associate DVC Research.

Grant Guilford has a second term as VC of the university now known as Victoria University of Wellington.

Rod Camm has stepped down as head of the Australian Council of Private Education and Training, the body that represented most of the private colleges.

Flinders University has appointed **Alistair Rendell** VP and executive dean of the College of Science and Engineering. He joins from ANU where he is director of the Research School of Computer Science.

Saveria Dimasi will join Macquarie University as VP services and strategy. She moves from the University of Queensland, where she is deputy COO.

Federation University has welcomed **Professor Talal Yusaf** as new Pro Vice-Chancellor (International and Partnerships)

Keith Nugent will join ANU in January as DVC Research, replacing Margaret Harding. He moves from La Trobe University, where he has the same job.

Terry Moran is Federation University's new chancellor.

Syed Islam is the new dean of science, engineering and IT at Federation University. Professor Islam moves from Curtin University where he is dean of international strategy and entrepreneurship in the science and engineering faculty.

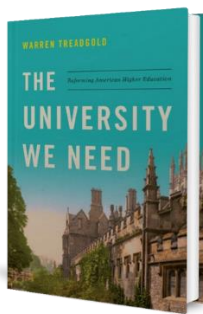
Digital sociologist **Deborah Lupton** is moving to UNSW from the University of Canberra, where she is now centenary research professor of communication.

A former dean of arts at Kings College London is taking up the same job at the University of Melbourne. **Russell Goulbourne** will start in January.

Monash University has promoted one of its own to be senior vice provost and VP research. **Rebekha Brown** is now director of the University's Sustainable Development Institute. The university is also in the market for a dean of education, with near 30 year Monash veteran **John Loughran** announcing his retirement.

The University of South Australia announces **Richard Irons** is the new director of Student and Academic Services. Mr Irons is now academic registrar at the University of Derby in the UK. He will start at UniSA in November.

BOOK REVIEWS

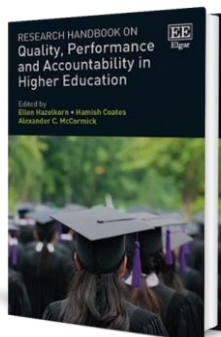


The University We Need. Reforming American Higher Education

Warren Treadgold

Though many people know that American universities now offer an inadequate and incoherent education from a leftist viewpoint that excludes moderate and conservative ideas, few people understand how much this matters, how it happened, how bad it is, or what can be done about it. In *The University We Need*, Professor Warren Treadgold shows the crucial role of universities in American culture and politics, the causes of their decline in administrative bloat and inept academic hiring, the effects of the decline on teaching and research, and some possible ways of reversing the decline.

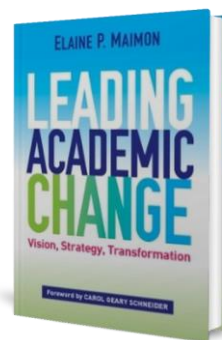
Interview with author in [Inside Higher Ed](#) (August 2)



Research Handbook on Quality, Performance and Accountability in Higher Education

Edited by Ellen Hazelkorn, Hamish Coates and Alexander C. McCormick

As higher education becomes a key determinant for economic competitiveness, institutions face increasing pressure to demonstrate their fitness to meet the needs of society and individuals. Blending innovative research with richly contextualised examples this unique Research Handbook provides authoritative insights from around the globe on how best to understand, assess and improve quality, performance and accountability in higher education.



Leading Academic Change

Elaine P. Maimon

Written by a sitting college president who has presided over transformative change at a state university, this book takes on the big questions and issues of change and change management, what needs to be done and how to do it. The author recommends changes for higher education such as the reallocation of resources to support full-time faculty members in foundation-level courses, navigable pathways from community college to the university, infusion rather than proliferation of courses, and the role of state universities in countering the disappearance of the middle class.



Dream Teams: Working Together Without Falling Apart

Shane Snow

The best teams are more than the sum of their parts, but why does collaboration so often fail to fulfill this promise? In *Dream*



Teams, Snow takes us on an adventure through history, neuroscience, psychology, and business, exploring what separates groups that simply get by together from those that get better together.

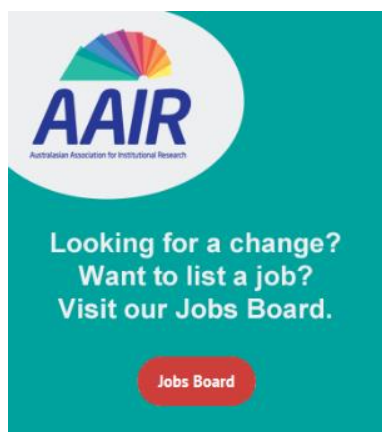
POSITIONS VACANT



AAIR is seeking an Editor for the Association's monthly Newsletter.

This is a fantastic professional development opportunity to increase your knowledge of the sector and gain an in-depth understanding of higher education issues at both international and domestic levels. It is hoped that the incoming Editor could shadow the outgoing Editor for the last issue of the year (November 2018), and then formally commence in January 2019.

Applications close 15 October 2018



LOOKING FOR SOME TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT?

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



Higher Education Information Management System (HEIMS).

Visit the HEIMSHelp [Training page](#) with details of the training resources that are available to help you meet reporting and verification deadlines

LOOKING FOR HIGHER EDUCATION CONFERENCES AND EVENTS?

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



Check the ATEM 2018 event calendar
<https://www.atem.org.au/documents/item/790>

Melbourne Data Science Week 2018

24th – 27th September 2017

<http://www.datasciencemelbourne.com/medascin2018/>

Data Science Melbourne (DSM) is now the 5th largest data science community in the world, behind Silicon Valley, New York, Washington DC and Toronto. For those who want hands on Data Science

training there will be 9 full day tutorials on Mon, Tue & Thu @ KPMG.

THE World Academic Summit

25-27 September, National University of Singapore

Hosted by the editors of *Times Higher Education*, the global authority on university excellence, the summit offers two full days of interview, debate and discussion, as well as networking events including a gala dinner, drinks reception, lunches and social events.

Higher Education Executive Assistants Intensive

10 - 11 October, Melbourne

16 -17 October, Sydney

Within an evolving and dynamic Higher Education sector, executive support professionals are faced with demanding expectations. This two-day intensive is designed to equip Higher Education Executive Assistants with the knowledge and practical tools to develop professional excellence and step up as an expert influencer in their organisation. **AAIR members receive 10% discount.**



12th Higher Education Women's Leadership Summit

14th & 15th November, Rendezvous Hotel, Melbourne, Australian

The 12th Higher Education Women's Leadership Summit will provide you with the skills, strategies and technical know-how to transform your leadership journey and make your way to the top. Unleash your potential, connect with like-minded professionals and kickstart your leadership journey. **AAIR members receive 10% discount - Use booking code Q3.**





ASCILITE 2018

25-28 November 2018, Deakin University at their Waterfront Campus in Gheringhap Street, Geelong, Australia

35th International Conference on Innovation, Practice and Research in the Use of Educational Technologies in Tertiary Education



TEQSA Conference 2018

28-30 November, Grand Hyatt, Melbourne, Australia

The theme for this year's conference – Innovation, Excellence, Diversity – will explore key objects of the TEQSA Act which call for us to protect and enhance these values in Australian higher education. The additional student theme will continue important discussions and involvement of students championed at last year's conference. **Registrations and call for papers now open**

ANZSSA Conference 2018



The University of Melbourne, Victoria, Australia

2 - 5 December 2018

The University of Melbourne will host the Australian and New Zealand Student Services Association Inc. (ANZSSA) Conference in December 2018. The theme, *Authentic Partnerships for Quality Outcomes*, aims to provide opportunities to learn new ways to enable students to achieve their educational and life goals through actively working together.



AAIR FORUM 2018

19-21 November 2018

Melbourne, VIC

Reflecting on the past, experiencing the present, shaping the future

Submit an Abstract

Register to Attend

Venue: Rydges Melbourne

Platinum Sponsor

eXplora

University Supporter

La Trobe University

[read more >](#)



LAST CENTURY DINNER

18 November 2018

Melbourne, VIC

Following on from the very successful 'Original AAIRies' dinner held as part of the 2014 Forum, Roni and Wendy are planning a follow-up 'AAIRies from the Last Century' dinner which will precede the upcoming 29th Annual AAIR Forum in Melbourne. This dinner will **not** be part of the official 2018 AAIR Forum, so you don't have to be registered for the main Forum to attend this dinner.

Register an Expression of Interest to attend

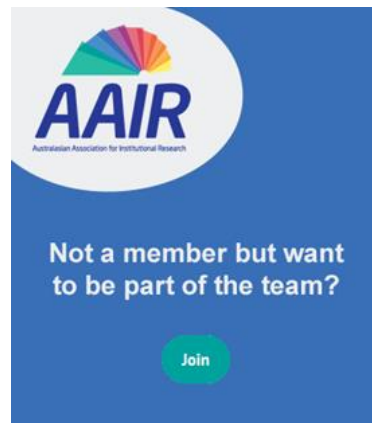
[read more >](#)



Call for Proposals for the 2019 AIR Forum
2019 AIR FORUM • MAY 28 – 31, 2019
Denver, CO, U.S

Proposals open Sept. 12- Oct. 14, 2018

The AIR Forum, the Association's annual conference, is the world's largest gathering of higher education professionals working in institutional research, assessment, planning, and related postsecondary education fields.



INSTITUTIONAL RESEARCHER'S CORNER

Five quick questions with Dan Jolley, Curtin University



In August 2018, AAIR sponsored Dan Jolley as part of the Early Career Researcher Scholarship to present at the [27th National VET Research Conference 'No Frills'](#) in Sydney. Dan's presentation, 'Is vocational training failing to prepare fitness students for employment and future study?' identified that although fitness students improve their knowledge during their course, the ability to think critically and choose high quality sources of information, is underdeveloped.

What is your current role and research focus?

I'm currently a PhD candidate in the School of Psychology at Curtin University. I also teach fitness students at South Metropolitan TAFE. My research interest (piqued by my professional practice) is in misconceptions in fitness knowledge that students, personal trainers and degree qualified exercise professionals might possess, and the role of critical thinking in correcting these misconceptions.

Briefly, what tools and resources do you use in your research/have used to-date?

To collect information about the fitness knowledge of our participants and their sources of information, we created a survey using [Qualtrics](#), which was administered face-to-face using tablets. We also designed and delivered an online course to improve the critical thinking skills of personal trainers, using content specific to their needs and interests. This was hosted on [MoodleCloud](#), as we found this easier for students to navigate than

other LMSs centred on managing survey data collections and survey results analyses.

Tell us about your involvement in the NCVET Event in Sydney.

The 27th National VET Research Conference 'No Frills' started with pre-conference workshops on Wednesday 15 August 2018, with the sessions I attended focussing on getting your research noticed and building research networks within the VET sector.

The highlights for me were the morning keynote addresses each day. Professor Lene Tanggaard discussed the value of creativity in VET learning, while Dr Andrew Charlton discussed the changing nature of job roles and the need for education providers to adapt to meet these changing demands.

Other talks consisted of an interesting mix of reporting large sets of data (such as the LSAY – [Longitudinal Survey of Australian Youth](#)), models of learning, research looking at qualifications of graduates, and the changing role of VET trainers. The varied nature of presentations was matched by the range of skills and backgrounds of conference attendees. The audience ranged from students and researchers, to VET trainers, to administrators and policy makers, which led to thought-provoking questions and lively discussions in workshops and presentations.

The AAIR scholarship gave me the opportunity to attend all three days of the conference, which was an invaluable learning experience. I also had the opportunity to attend both the welcome reception and conference dinner, which were both entertaining evenings, and I had the chance to meet a wide variety of other attendees.

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

A recurring theme from this year's conference, and recent research into employability, is the increasing importance of 'soft skills', such as effective communication, research, problem solving, critical analysis skills. This was mentioned repeatedly throughout the event and highlights the important of critical-thinking skills in VET. Traditionally, VET has not focussed on these skills.

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

It is difficult to assess critical-thinking skills in competency-based training, where the performance of job tasks is key. My research has shown that these skills are not well developed in VET fitness students, or personal trainers, but the research of others tells us how desirable and important these skills are! We need to look for ways to include these skills into lower levels of education, and teach them explicitly. We will also need to re-examine VET training packages, and the skills of VET trainers, to make sure these skills can be taught.

Finally, I'd like to express my sincere thanks to AAIR for providing this opportunity to attend the NCVET conference. It was a valuable experience that has helped me communicate my research to those who can make good use of its findings. I'm looking forward to attending again in the future to present more work and to continue to build professional relationships.

Connect with Dan on [LinkedIn](#)
Twitter handle: [@AusDJ2](#)

*Don't forget to save the date for the **28th National Vocational Education and Training Research Conference 'No Frills'**, co-hosted with TAFE SA in Adelaide on 10–12 July 2019.*

CALL FOR CONTRIBUTIONS

Issue 10, October 2018

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 October 2018. Please send your contributions to the editor@aaair.org.au by October 12, 2018.



AAIR on Twitter [@AAIRaustralasia](#)



Tracy Creagh, Editor, *The Institutional Researcher*

