

Learning and Teaching Academic Standards Project: Law

Regional Consultation

August-October 2010

From 2011, the Australian government will introduce a new regulatory and quality assurance framework to oversight Australian higher education: the Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency (TEQSA). Of particular interest to the legal profession is that TEQSA is to be charged with evaluating the performance of universities and their programs of study (such as the Bachelor of Laws) against a range of standards criteria. These criteria will take into account the 'academic standards' that discipline communities (professional bodies, employers, regulators, academics, and students) nationally agree represent the core '**Threshold Learning Outcomes**' (TLOs) for discipline graduates across the sector. The academic standards statement developed will represent the minimum that a graduate is expected to know, understand and be able to do as a result of their learning. The project is being driven by the Australian Learning and Teaching Council (ALTC) through the appointment of **Discipline Scholars**, across a number of broad disciplinary groups, of which law is one.

As part of the Australian Learning and Teaching Council-funded project developing national Learning and Teaching Academic Standards for the Bachelor of Laws, the Discipline Scholars in Law are running a process of regional consultation across Australia.

Our presentation will discuss how the academic standards agenda is playing out in the discipline of law, where the focus has been on the Bachelor of Laws degree. Following extensive consultation already conducted, and with the guidance of the Council of Australian Law Deans and expert Reference Groups, a public Consultation Paper was released in July. The Consultation Paper and the dates, times and locations for the Regional Consultations are available for download from our website at <http://www.altc.edu.au/standards/disciplines/law>.

Interested stakeholders are invited to attend one of our presentations and have input into the Standards Statement being developed for the Bachelor of Laws. The meetings run for 90 minutes and are being held both during the day and after normal working hours between late August and October. They should be of interest to **legal academics, student representatives and members of the profession and the judiciary**. Members of the profession and the judiciary who might be particularly interested to attend include members of the Admitting Authorities in each jurisdiction, as well as their colleagues on Law Society and Bar Association practical legal training and legal education committees.

For those unable to attend a face-to-face meeting, we shall also be running a video- or teleconference (further details on registration).

Please **register online** for any of the sessions using the following website:

<http://www.altc.edu.au/rsvp/ltasp-law-regionalconsultation>

If you encounter difficulties in registering, please contact **Shana Ludwell, Events and Secretariat Administrative Assistant**, Australian Learning and Teaching Council, 02 8667 8547, shana.ludwell@altc.edu.au

Presenters:

Sally Kift, Queensland University of Technology (QUT)

Sally Kift is a Professor of Law at QUT, where she has served as Law Faculty Assistant Dean, Teaching & Learning (2001-2006) and QUT's foundational Director, First Year Experience (2006-2007). Sally received a National Teaching Award (AAUT) in 2003. In 2006, she was awarded one of three inaugural Australian Learning and Teaching Council (ALTC) Senior Fellowships for a project to investigate optimal first year curriculum design. In 2007, Sally led a Project Team to the award of a further ALTC National Teaching Award for the Law Faculty's Assessment and Feedback practices. In 2009, she was appointed the ALTC Discipline Scholar: Law (jointly with Professor Mark Israel, University of Western Australia). Sally has published widely on legal education and student transition, and has received numerous national and international invitations to speak on issues relating to transition and the first year experience, on curriculum design to embed and assess graduate attributes, and on the current state of legal education.

Mark Israel, University of Western Australia (UWA)

Mark Israel is Winthrop Professor of Law and Criminology and Associate Dean (Learning and Teaching) at UWA and Adjunct Professor of Law and Criminology at Flinders University. Mark received the 2004 Prime Minister's Award for Australian University Teacher of the Year and has been honoured with a Senior Fellowship by the Higher Education Academy (UK). He has also been awarded an Associate Fellowship by the Australian Learning and Teaching Council where he is investigating the development of university leadership in learning and teaching. Internationally, Mark is an External Examiner at the University of Hong Kong and an Academic Advisor to the City University of Hong Kong. Mark shares the Discipline Scholar role for Law with Professor Sally Kift.

For further information, please contact Katherine Edhouse:

Position: Project Administrator, Learning and Teaching Academic Standards Project: Law

Phone: **(08) 6488 3792**

Email: katherine.edhouse@uwa.edu.au
