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Higher Education Standards Panel Draft Standards:

Comments on proposed revisions to the current higher education Threshold Standards.

Draft Standards for Course Design and Learning Outcomes

Victoria University welcomes the opportunity to provide feedback on the proposed revisions to the current higher education Threshold Standards.

Feedback on the proposed format (e.g.style, clarity, pitch)for the revised standards(including the use of reference points)

Q1. Do you broadly support the proposed format for the standards? If not, why?

Yes, the format is clear and manageable.

Q2. Do you support the inclusion of Reference Points as proposed? If not, why?

Yes, this is a sensible way to reference important supports that are not Standards in their own right.

Q3. Do you wish to make any suggestions in relation to the format of the standards?

The format of these two draft standards is simple and clear. However given an inevitable degree of overlap, as more drafts are developed it would help if each one included a table or graphic indicating how it fits into the overall standards scheme. Tables of definitions may also need to be included.

Feedback on the proposed draft standards for Course Design (Coursework)

Q4. Do you broadly support the proposed standards for Course design? If not, why?

Yes, the approach used is logical and clear.

Q5. Do you wish to make any suggestions in relation to the specific content of the standards?

Standard 4 refers explicitly to the AQF, however the accompanying Discussion Paper suggests that the Standards Framework will include Qualifications Standards (under the category of Educational Experience). If so, it might be better if Standard 4 referred to the Qualifications Standards, which could in turn then refer to the AQF as the Reference Point. The draft course design standards do not explicitly cover student-centred design considerations such as curriculum design for 'transition in' to study, for student engagement & success, and for graduate career outcomes.

Feedback on the proposed draft standards for Learning Outcomes (Coursework)

Q6. Do you broadly support the proposed standards for Learning Outcomes? If not, why?

The approach is promising, but there is significant overlap between these draft standards and those for Course Design, which is likely to confuse. One option could be to incorporate aspects of these Standards within the Course Design Standards. Another option could be to recast these Standards to cover Learning Outcomes for both Courses and Units of Study.

Q7. Do you wish to make any suggestions in relation to the specific content of the standards?

The course design standards emphasise theoretical/conceptual content while the learning outcomes standards emphasise professional knowledge/skills and application. The consequences of this are potential confusion between course design and learning outcomes standards rather than integration.