



THE UNIVERSITY OF
NEWCASTLE
AUSTRALIA

PROFESSOR ANDREW PARFITT
DEPUTY VICE-CHANCELLOR (ACADEMIC)

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Higher Education Standard Panel Executive
GPO Box 1672
Melbourne VIC 3001

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Email: info@HEstandards.gov.au

Dear Panel Executive

Thank you for the opportunity of responding to the *Draft Standards for Course Design and Learning Outcomes* section of the Higher Education Standards revision of the Threshold Standards.

The University of Newcastle welcomes the revision and the Higher Education Standards Panel's aim to clarify and streamline the documents. The University endorses fully the submission provided by the *Innovative Research Universities* group, and its emphasis on ensuring that the standards align with universities' corporate governance processes, and that unintended consequences are avoided particularly through reference to external publications which do not have, and should not have, prescriptive powers.

The University would like to take this opportunity to reinforce some comments made in the IRU submission, particularly in regard to Standard 7 of the *Course Design (Coursework)* document, and Standards 7 and 10 of the *Learning Outcomes (Coursework)* document.

The Panel Executive would be aware that many courses are externally accredited by professional bodies, and that these accreditation processes are extensive. We understand that TEQSA is currently seeking ways that it might work with the professional accrediting bodies to see where their reviews of courses might align in an attempt to mitigate the impost on universities in providing similar information to two accrediting bodies on different time-frames. The University would welcome a similar consideration to be built in to the Standards mentioned above, where they provide for periodic review of courses, including learning outcomes, methods of assessment and grading of students' achievement of those outcomes, to be extended to be reviewed *every 5-7 years* to allow specific courses which have different professional accreditation cycles to streamline review processes.

Yours sincerely

Andrew Parfitt
Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic)

NEWCASTLE | CENTRAL COAST | PORT MACQUARIE | SINGAPORE

The University of Newcastle enquirycentre@newcastle.edu.au T +61 2 4921 5000
Callaghan NSW 2308 Australia CRICOS Provider Number: 00109J www.newcastle.edu.au