

Professor Ron Oliver
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Professor Alan Robson
Chair, Higher Education Standards Panel
Higher Education Standards Panel Executive
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Comments from Edith Cowan University (ECU) on the Draft Standards for Course Design and Learning Outcomes

Dear Professor Robson

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on proposed revisions to the Higher Education Standards Framework.

ECU generally supports the proposed format of the standards and the standards themselves and offers the following constructive feedback:

- Whilst we see merit in the provision of Reference Points, it will be necessary to articulate exactly what such entities are. The term *reference point* can be interpreted in many ways by different people. It is not clear which documents qualify as reference points or how they are chosen. Such ambiguity could be problematic.
- Standard 5 in Course Design (Coursework) describes aspects of the content required of a course of study. We feel it may not be appropriate to include descriptions to course content in the standards for course design, Such descriptions would seem to be better placed in the standards describing learning outcomes.
- Standard 3 in the Learning Outcomes (Coursework) describes the factors that must inform the description of learning outcomes. These descriptions complement the AQF statements. We wonder if the AQF descriptions should be the sole informant for learning outcomes. If such descriptions are needed, we question if they might be better placed in the AQF document.

If you or other Panel members would like further clarification on matters raised in this letter, I would be happy to be contacted by email: _____ or by telephone: _____

Yours sincerely

Professor Ron Oliver
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