

**PROFESSOR NICHOLAS TALLEY
ACTING DEPUTY VICE-CHANCELLOR (RESEARCH)**



THE UNIVERSITY OF
NEWCASTLE
AUSTRALIA

Email: _____

9 July 2013

Higher Education Standards Panel Executive
GPO Box 1672
Melbourne VIC 3001

Dear colleagues,

I write in response to your call for comment in relation to the Draft Standards for Research, Research Training and Learning Outcomes (Research Training). The University of Newcastle is generally comfortable and supportive of the Draft Standards. The principles proposed are consistent with current University policy and practice; it is pleasing that they will be suitably codified as part of the Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency framework.

One issue I would like to raise is the inconsistency in wording adopted in the Australian Qualifications Framework learning outcomes and those included in the Draft Standards. While both guidelines evince a similar intention there are differences in the manner in which they are framed. The University of Newcastle has been diligent in formulating statements regarding our Graduate Attributes to reflect the AQF principles, the imposition of a different standard creates unnecessary ambiguity. It is suggested that steps are taken to either align the terminology used in both documents or, if a different standard is intended, elucidate and justify the distinction.

In relation to the remainder of the Draft Standards, the University of Newcastle is supportive of the comments of our representative body, the Innovative Research Universities, noting that where suggestions have been made by the IRU they necessitate only a relatively minor adaptation of the present document.

I thank the Panel for the opportunity to comment on Draft Standards for Research, Research Training and Learning Outcomes (Research Training). Please do not hesitate to contact me should you wish to discuss further any aspect of the Draft or its application to the University of Newcastle.

Yours sincerely,

Professor Nicholas Talley
Acting Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research)