

8 August 2013

Higher Education Standards Panel Executive  
[info@hestandards.gov.au](mailto:info@hestandards.gov.au)

Dear

**Response to Higher Education Standards Panel Consultation Draft Standards for Research, Research Training and Learning Outcomes (Research Training) – Discussion Paper**

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Higher Education Standards Panel's proposed approach to the revision of the *Higher Education Standards Framework*. I apologise for the delay in providing a response. The following comments relate to the request for any suggestions in relation to the specific content of the standards for Research, Research Training and Learning Outcomes (Research Training).

This set of draft standards would benefit from a definition of 'research' to assist with common understanding of what the term and the process of research embodies. It may similarly be useful to reference in the introduction that in addition to research being a definite feature of Masters degrees and Doctoral degrees, it is also a critical component of the Bachelor Honours degree which is commonly a pathway for these higher degrees by research.

It is pleasing to note that the language in standard 3 of the Learning Outcomes (Research Training) contains many of the elements of the AQF levels 9 and 10 criteria. That noted, there is some overlap of the standards and use of different language for similar concepts which may lead to confusion. For example, standard 2 in the 'Research' standard may be better expressed using the same language as in standards 3 and 4 in 'Research Training' standard, such as the notion of research expertise compared to research experience and skills.

As discussed, I would be happy to have discussions with the Panel about its work on the standards and in particular revisions to the Qualification Standards. I am keen to ensure that we are able to engage with you and understand any areas of difficulty for the Panel with regard to these Standards.

Please do not hesitate to contact me regarding this response on

Yours sincerely

Dr Lyndal Groom  
Executive Director

