

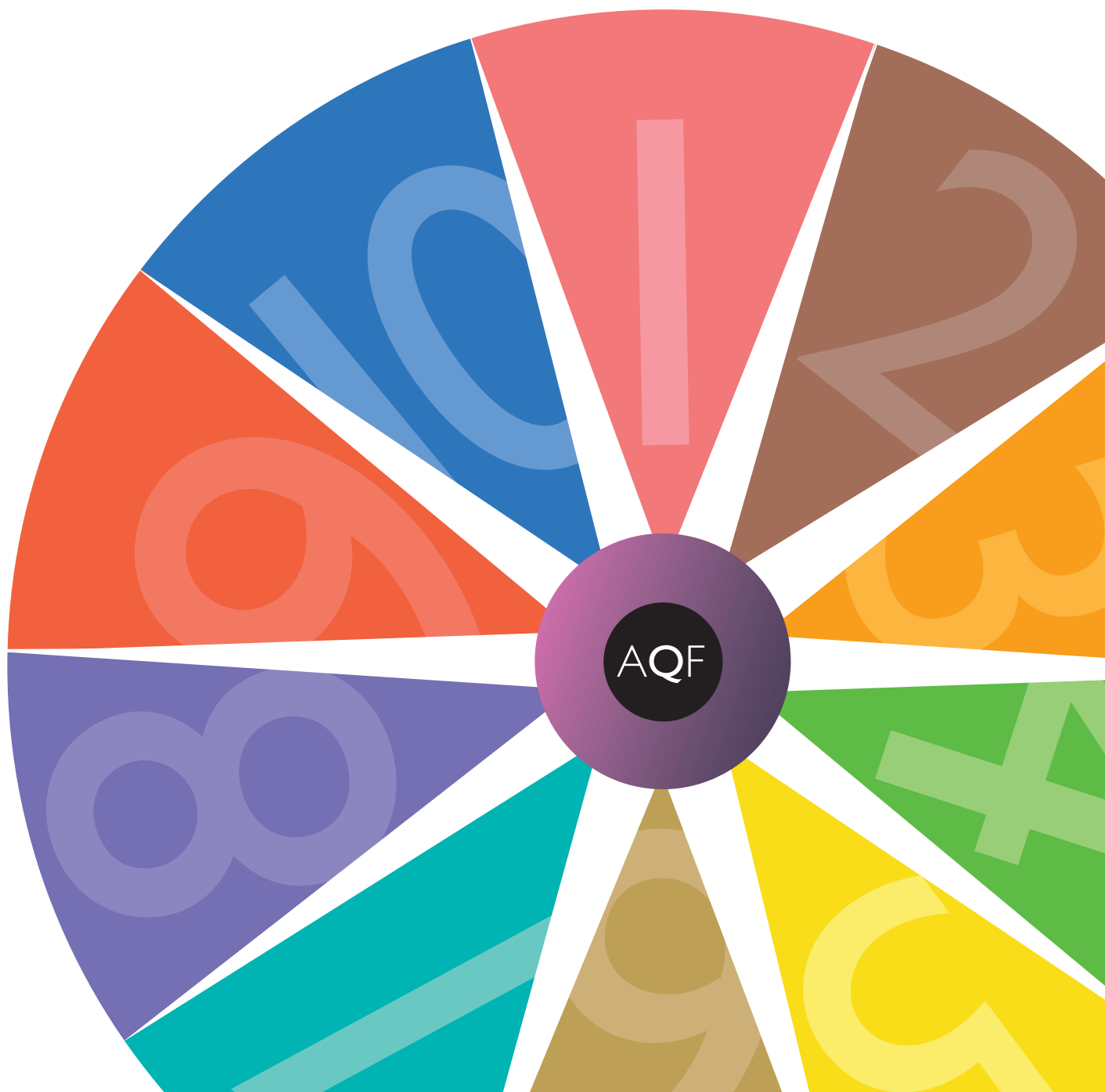
Australian Qualifications Framework

Making a Difference

A symposium and launch of the
Australian Qualifications Framework

Thursday 23 June 2011

Fairmont Room Park Hyatt Hotel Melbourne



Welcome from Hon John Dawkins AO

Chair, Australian Qualifications Framework Council

The Australian Qualifications Framework Council is pleased to host this important event to celebrate the revisions to the AQF which is the culmination of the work of the AQF Council's first term of office.

The review of the AQF has occurred in the context of significant policy reforms in the Australian education sector and it has been designed to support these reforms. The revised and contemporary AQF will ensure that Australian qualifications continue to be highly regarded nationally as well as internationally. Australia's reputation as an educational leader and innovator will be enhanced through the implementation of the revisions to the AQF.

The symposium will showcase the benefits of the AQF for the nation. Presentations will be delivered by senior members of organisations that use or benefit from the AQF; leading academics and commentators will discuss how the AQF makes a difference in the workforce and the community both nationally and internationally. The official launch of the AQF at the end of the day will mark the commencement of the AQF from 1 July 2011.

Statement by Senator Hon Christopher Evans

Minister for Tertiary Education, Skills, Jobs and Workplace Relations

The launch of the strengthened Australian Qualifications Framework (AQF) marks the culmination of over two years of intense development and consultation undertaken by the AQF Council. The strengthened AQF ensures that the qualifications framework that underpins Australia's education and training system is contemporary and relevant to today's needs. At the same time it establishes a framework that can meet the challenges of the future.

Australia first introduced the AQF in 1995, some fifteen years ago. This was a pioneering move, one which the rest of the world admired. Several of our international neighbours are actively seeking Australia's guidance as they grapple with a qualification framework for their countries.

The strengthened AQF will help ensure the quality of Australia's education and training system. It will help to ensure that it continues to be held in high regard both nationally and internationally. As we continue to move towards greater mobility of not only Australian students, but also international students, it is important to build confidence in qualification outcomes and to enable international comparability of Australian qualifications and qualification standards.

Importantly, the AQF now incorporates a national policy which supports the various pathways students can take between the three education sectors – school, vocational education and training (VET) and higher education, in order to gain qualifications. Many of Australia's education and training institutions are actively working towards extended pathways and credit arrangements to better meet the needs of students and industry. These types of arrangements are supported and encouraged under the strengthened AQF.

The strengthened AQF is due to the significant commitment of the Hon John Dawkins AO, the AQF Council and its Secretariat and the many stakeholders who have contributed to its development. I am confident that all involved will remain committed and engaged as we now begin the important task of implementation.

Statement by Jordi Curell

Director, European Commission Directorate-General Education and Culture

The introduction of the new, strengthened AQF is a matter of great interest in qualifications circles in Europe. The past ten years have seen the rapid adoption of qualifications frameworks as the organising structures of qualifications systems in European countries; at the same time, the European Qualifications Framework has been developed as a translation device to enable national frameworks to be compared.

The original AQF is acknowledged as a strong influence on these developments in Europe and there has been considerable cooperation between European and Australian authorities in exploring ways of learning from one another. A Peer Learning Activity in late 2010, with participation from 35 countries, revealed widespread interest in the AQF. This was followed by an EU/Australia policy dialogue on qualifications frameworks, leading to a joint EU/Australia study on the role of qualifications frameworks in supporting mobility.

These engagements reveal a very significant degree of correspondence between EQF and AQF in terms of their underlying conceptual bases, definitions of terminology and general approaches to the recognition of learning achievement. This correspondence will be deepened with the introduction of a new AQF featuring a levels structure. There is strong interest in EU Member States and in the European Commission in continuing our engagement with Australia. In particular we look forward to further joint activity to widen and deepen our mutual understanding and appreciation of qualifications frameworks at opposite ends of the globe!

Time	Sessions	Speakers
8.00-9.00	Registration and coffee	
9.00 – 10.30	Session 1 The role of the AQF in national and international economic development	Chair: Hon John Dawkins AO Chair, Australian Qualifications Framework Council
	The Australian Qualifications Framework making a difference in a global environment	Hon John Dawkins AO Chair, Australian Qualifications Framework Council
	Impact of a national qualifications framework on workforce development	Lance Hockridge Managing Director and CEO, QR National
	Qualifications in Australian society	Garth Bode First Assistant Statistician, Australian Bureau of Statistics
	Responding to the big questions – 1	Facilitator: Megan Lilly, Member, AQF Council
10.30 – 11.00	Morning Tea	
11.00 – 12.20	Session 2 The impact of the AQF on employment and society	Chair: Dr Dianne Orr Incoming Acting Commissioner, Australian Skills Quality Authority
	AQF qualifications – pathways to professional registration	Rupert Grayston Chief Executive, Engineers Australia
	Transferring qualifications and skills across borders	Professor Lesleyanne Hawthorne Associate Dean International, The University of Melbourne
	Responding to the big questions – 2	Facilitator: Carol Webb, Member, AQF Council
12.20 – 1.15	Lunch	
1.15 – 3.00	Session 3 The AQF for students and workers in a national and international context	Chair: Professor Barry McGaw AO Chair, Australian Curriculum Assessment and Reporting Authority
	Qualifications for economic development and a skilled workforce	Heather Ridout Chief Executive, Australian Industry Group
	Qualifications from the student viewpoint	John Nowakowski President, Council of Australian Postgraduate Associations Rachael Durrant National Education Officer, National Union of Students
	The AQF - providing certainty for mobile students	Professor Dean Forbes Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Flinders University
	Responding to the big questions – 3	Facilitator: Kim Bannikoff, Member, AQF Council
3.00 – 3.15	Afternoon tea	
3.15 – 4.45	Session 4 The impact of the AQF on educational provision for lifelong learning	Chair: Emeritus Professor Denise Bradley AC Interim Chair, Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency
	The AQF - facilitating pathways between the education sectors	Professor Anne Jones Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Victoria University
	Achieving quality learning outcomes from a provider perspective	Pam Christie Acting Director-General, NSW Department of Education and Communities
	The AQF journey to 2011 – a reflection	Peter Noonan Director, Allen Consulting Group
5.00 - 6.00	Launch of the Australian Qualifications Framework	
	Host	Hon John Dawkins AO
	Welcome	Pat Forward, Member, AQF Council
	Launch address	Hon Dr Elizabeth Constable MLA Minister for Education, West Australia Member, Ministerial Council for Tertiary Education and Employment Member, Ministerial Council for Education, Early Childhood Development and Youth Affairs

Australian Qualifications Framework Council Members

Chair

Hon John Dawkins AO
May 2008 [ongoing](#)

Higher education members

Professor Peter Hoj
Vice Chancellor
University of South Australia
May 2011 [ongoing](#)

Professor Stephen Parker
Vice Chancellor
University of Canberra
May 2011 [ongoing](#)

Professor Ian Young
May 2008 – December 2010

Vocational education and training member

Kim Bannikoff
Consultant
January 2011 [ongoing](#)

Dr Julius Roe
May 2008 – December 2009

Dual sector member

Professor John Wood
Executive General Manager
Navitas
May 2011 [ongoing](#)

School member

Dr Ken Boston AO
Consultant
January 2010 [ongoing](#)

Kim Bannikoff
May 2008 – December 2010

Industry (employer) member

Megan Lilly
Director Education and Training
Australian Industry Group
May 2008 [ongoing](#)

Industry (union) member

Pat Forward
Federal TAFE Secretary
Australian Education Union
May 2008 [ongoing](#)

Government (Commonwealth) member

Jennifer Taylor
Group Manager
Department of Education Employment
and Workplace Relations
April 2010 [ongoing](#)

Craig Robertson
February 2009 – March 2010

Dr Wendy Jarvie
May 2008 – February 2009

Government (State/Territory) members

Carol Webb
Assistant Director General
Queensland Department of Education
and Training
May 2008 [ongoing](#)

George McLean
Executive Director
Victorian Department of Education
and Early Childhood
May 2011 [ongoing](#)

Sian Lewis
May 2008 – April 2011

New Zealand observer

Karen Chalmers
Director International and Policy
New Zealand Qualifications Authority
2009 [ongoing](#)

Australian Qualifications Framework Secretariat Staff

Ann Doolette	Executive Director
Di Booker	Principal Policy Officer
Suzy McKenna	Principal Project Officer
Sharon Grandison	Executive Assistant



Garth Bode

Garth Bode is the First Assistant Statistician of the Social Statistics Group, Australian Bureau of Statistics.

The Group is responsible for compiling, analysing and disseminating statistics that describe the characteristics and well-being of Australia's population and how people's lives are changing over time. Garth joined the ABS in 1982. He has a Masters Degree in statistics from the Australian National University. Garth has worked in a range of areas of the ABS covering aspects of economic, social and labour statistics. Prior to his current appointment Garth was responsible for the ABS's labour and demography statistics programs.

Emeritus Professor Denise Bradley AC

Emeritus Professor Denise Bradley is the Interim Chair of the Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency.

She is the former Vice-Chancellor and President of the University of South Australia and has been extensively involved in national education policy for more than two decades. She was a member of the Commonwealth Tertiary Education Commission. Later she was a member and Deputy Chair of the National Board of Employment, Education and Training. Denise is also Chair of the Australian Health Workforce Advisory Council; a member of the Education Infrastructure Fund Advisory Board; a member of the Australian National Commission for UNESCO; a Director of SEEK Ltd; a member of the NSW Partnerships Evaluation Committee; and Chair of VERNet. On Australia Day 2008 Professor Bradley was made a Companion of the Order of Australia, Australia's highest honour, in recognition of her service to higher education.

Pam Christie

Pam Christie is currently acting Director-General of the NSW Department of Education and Communities.

In her substantive role as Deputy Director-General, TAFE and Community Education she is responsible for driving strategic directions and policy across TAFE NSW, working with industry to increase participation and productivity, to develop a highly skilled workforce. Pam has worked in education and training for over 30 years. Her career has included work in the vocational education and training sector, managing regulation and funding of training providers in NSW and leading reforms related to apprenticeships. She has been Institute Director for two of Australia's largest TAFE Institutes. Pam has led TAFE NSW Higher Education strategic directions and is committed to strengthening pathways and partnerships across the tertiary education sector.

Hon John Dawkins AO

John Dawkins is Chair of The Australian Qualifications Framework Council.

He served for 18 years in the Australian Federal Government House of Representatives for the Australian Labor Party. From 1983 to 1994 he served under Prime Ministers R.J. Hawke and P.J. Keating as Finance Minister; Trade Minister; Employment, Education and Training Minister; and finally as Treasurer. Since leaving politics in 1994, Mr Dawkins has advised Australian universities and State and foreign governments on education and training issues.

Mr Dawkins continues to serve on the boards of a number of listed and unlisted companies. He chairs the Board of Governors of the Institute for International Trade at Adelaide University. He has worked with The World Bank on education reform projects in the Philippines, Thailand, Indonesia, Malaysia and Cambodia, with UNESCO in Saudi Arabia and with the OECD in Ireland. He is a participant in various international conferences covering business, economic and political issues and travels frequently to Asia. Mr Dawkins graduated in Agriculture from Roseworthy College and Economics from the University of Western Australia. He was awarded the honorary degree of Doctor of the University by the University of South Australia, Ballarat University and the Queensland University of Technology. He was made an Officer in the Order of Australia in May 2000.

Rachael Durrant

Rachael Durrant is a fourth year Media Arts and Production student at the University of Technology Sydney.

As 2010 President of the University of Technology Sydney Students' Association (UTSSA), she was a leading student advocate within university governance boards and committees. During her presidency Rachael established the UTSSA Quality Project, which gathered and reported student perspectives on quality issues. This year, as the National Education Officer with the National Union of Students she is in charge of the NUS engagement with education policy and the coordination of national campaigns.

Professor Dean Forbes

Professor Dean Forbes is Deputy Vice-Chancellor (International & Communities) at Flinders University.

He is an Honorary Auditor with the Australian Universities Quality Agency and a Board member of the Community for Global Communication Inc and Education Adelaide. He is a past chair of the Universities Australia Deputy Vice-Chancellors (International) Committee and the Innovative Research Universities International Committee. A Fellow of the Academy of Social Sciences in Australia, he co-edited *Pacific Asian Cities: Risks and Resilience*, which was published by Routledge in May 2011.

Rupert Grayston

Rupert Grayston is the Acting Chief Executive, Engineers Australia.

Engineers Australia is a 95,000-member association for engineering professionals in Australia with nine offices, 170 staff and 4,500 volunteers and office bearers. Rupert has a Bachelor Degree in civil engineering and a Masters Degree in engineering management. He was for 11 years a structural engineering consultant in Australia and overseas, and for six years a state manager for the Australian Steel Institute. He joined Engineers Australia in 2003 as Executive Director for West Australia Division and in 2005 took up his ongoing role of Deputy Chief Executive.

Professor Lesleyanne Hawthorne

Professor Lesleyanne Hawthorne (PhD, MA, BA Hons, Dip Ed, Grad Dip Mig Stud) is Associate Dean International at The University of Melbourne.

Her research concerns global high skilled migration, foreign credential recognition, labour market integration, and international student flows. Most recently she has completed commissioned studies for the Canadian, New Zealand and Australian governments, UNESCO, the US Migration Policy Institute, and the Pacific Economic Cooperation Council, and the Global Forum of Federations. In 2005-2006 Lesleyanne was appointed to an Expert Panel of Three by Australia's Federal Cabinet to complete the most extensive evaluation of Australia's skilled migration program since 1988, with major policy impacts.

Lance Hockridge

Lance Hockridge became Managing Director and CEO of QR National after its structural separation from QR Limited in July 2010.

Lance joined QR National as Chief Executive Officer in November 2007 with more than 30 years' experience in transportation and heavy industrial sectors in Australia and the United States with BHP and BlueScope Steel. In QR Limited, and now in QR National, he has led a transformation program aimed at delivering world-class safety, customer service excellence and superior commercial capability. Lance played a leading role in QR National's preparations for the IPO, overseeing structural separation and the company through the transition from government to private ownership.

Professor Anne Jones

Professor Anne Jones is the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic and Students) at Victoria University.

Her portfolio includes responsibility for the University's teaching and learning and students, vocational education strategy, the Victoria University College and VU International. Professor Jones originally trained as a scientist with qualifications ranging from Degrees in zoology to a doctorate based on research into how VET teachers make professional judgements. Professor Jones has worked for the former Bendigo College of Advanced Education, RMIT TAFE, the former Flagstaff College of TAFE and Box Hill Institute until commencement at Victoria University in 2005.

Professor Barry McGaw AO PhD

Professor Barry McGaw is Chair, Australian Curriculum Assessment and Reporting Authority.

He is a Vice-Chancellor's Fellow at The University of Melbourne where, from 2006 to 2010, he was a Professorial Fellow. He had previously been Director for Education at the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, Executive Director of the Australian Council for Educational Research and Professor of Education at Murdoch University. He was originally a secondary science and mathematics teacher in Queensland. Professor McGaw is a Fellow of the Academy of the Social Sciences in Australia, the Australian Psychological Society, the Australian College of Educators and the International Academy of Education. He is currently President of the Academy of the Social Sciences in Australia. Professor McGaw received an Australian Centenary Medal in 2001 and was appointed an Officer in the Order of Australia in 2004.

Peter Noonan

Peter Noonan is a Director of the Allen Consulting Group.

Prior to joining ACG, he was the Director of his own education and training research and consulting firm, Peter Noonan Consulting. He established the practice in 2001 after 20 years of experience in senior levels of government at state and national levels. Over that period he has played a major role in shaping policy directions in VET, Higher and Post Compulsory Education in Australia. Peter was a General Manager and Acting CEO of the Australian National Training Authority, where he played a leading role in the development of the National VET system in Australia. He is a former Deputy Director General (VET) in the Queensland Department of Employment Training and Industrial Relations and General Manager of the State Training Board of Victoria. He was a member of the Expert Panel for the Review of Australian Higher Education (Bradley Review). Peter was involved in the initial negotiations and processes for the development of the AQF. He has worked internationally advising governments on qualification frameworks and quality assurance. Peter is a Honorary Fellow in the Graduate School of Education at The University of Melbourne and was the recipient of a Fulbright Award in 1993.

John Nowakowski

John Nowakowski is the 2011 National President of the Council of Australian Postgraduate Associations (CAPA).

He is past president at Sydney University Postgraduate Representative Association. As part of his duties, he sits on the Department of Innovation, Industry, Science and Research Research Workforce Strategy Action Group. He has been completing a PhD in Chemical Engineering at the University of Sydney, and has five years experience as a casual tutor in Engineering.

Dr Dianne Orr

Dr Dianne Orr will commence as Acting Commissioner of the Australian Quality Skills Authority from 1 July 2011.

Dianne has ten years experience in VET regulation, previously holding the position of Executive Director of Training and International Quality in the Queensland Department of Education and Training and before that working in a regulatory policy role with the Australian National Training Authority. She was formerly a member of the National Quality Council and has worked on a number of the Council's national action groups. For the past 8 months Dianne has been working in the National VET Regulator Taskforce formed by DEEWR to establish the Australian Skills Quality Authority.

Heather Ridout

Heather Ridout is Chief Executive of the Australian Industry Group.

Heather is a leading figure in the public policy debate in Australia. She is a member of a number of key national policy setting and consultative groups including the Business Roundtable on Climate Change, National Workplace Relations Consultative Committee; Infrastructure Australia; Skills Australia and the Prime Minister's Business Taskforce on Flood Recovery. She heads an organisation committed to helping Australian industry with a focus on building competitive and sustainable industries through global integration, skills development, productive and flexible workplace relations, infrastructure development and innovation. Heather also holds various other appointments including Director of the Australian Super Trustee Board, the Australian Research Alliance for Children and Youth. She was also a member of the Henry Tax Review and chaired the Productivity and Prosperity Advisory Panel of the Population Strategy Task Force.