



Australian TAFE Higher Education Provider Network

Guidelines for Members

April 2013

1. Background

The Bradley Report¹ (2009) recommended a more seamless transition for students from vocational education and training (VET) to higher education (HE) in an increasingly interconnected tertiary sector. Since Bradley, there are now 10² TAFE registers as Higher Education providers (HEP) in Australia delivering over 100 accredited HE qualifications across a range of industry sectors. By servicing new cohorts of students, these institutes are enhancing the diversity of the tertiary sector through new and innovation qualifications and pathways into HE and contributing directly to the achievement of Commonwealth targets for social inclusion in HE³. These targets are currently not being met into the HE sector alone.

In light of the changing tertiary landscape, TDA commissioned a survey of its national membership in 2012 to ascertain the priorities for members including those who are higher education providers (HEPs). There was strong response from HEP members for a national network to encourage greater collaboration and support and to develop a stronger voice for TAFE in the tertiary environment. As a result, TDA has adopted a strategic approach in its new strategic plan outlining a number of initiatives to support HEP members.

The idea for an Australian TAFE Higher Education Providers (HEP) Network was initiated by TDA members Dr Ruth Shubert, Director Strategy and Business, TAFE SA and Sharon Guscott, Principal Policy Officer Higher Education Services, TAFE SA. The aim of the network is to promote collegiality nationally among TAFE HEPs and to foster collaboration relating to regulatory requirements related to maintaining a HEP registration, benchmarking, scholarship and workforce development. A preliminary meeting was held in Melbourne in March 2013 to ascertain if there was sufficient interest from TAFE HEPs in a national network/community of practice. Delegates from Chisholm Institute (VIC), Holmesglen (VIC), Box Hill Institute (VIC), Polytechnic West (WA), Canberra Institute of Technology (ACT), TAFE NSW, TAFE Directors Australia and TAFE SA attended the meeting with unanimous agreement that the network should be established to promote collaboration, cooperation and knowledge sharing across the states. It was also agreed that there are opportunities

¹ Bradley, D, Noonan, P, Nugent, H, Scales, W, 2008 *Review of Australian Higher Education: Final Report*, Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations, Canberra

² Including TAFE NSW and TAFE SA as one provider

³ By 2020, 20% of enrolments in the undergraduate level will be people from a low SES background.

for collaboration and benchmarking with international HEP networks through TDA. The guidelines for members reflect the outcomes of that meeting.

2. Objectives

- i. To share knowledge and information between TAFE HEPs across states and territories;
- ii. To encourage a shared voice on issues and practices relating to the provision of HE in TAFE across jurisdictions;
- iii. To articulate this voice to a range of bodies including the Board of TAFE Directors Australia and other bodies for representation to state and federal policy in regard to HE and VET settings;
- iv. To cooperate in the design and delivery of joint initiatives (such as scholarship and workforce development projects) across jurisdictional boundaries;
- v. To develop relationships for knowledge exchange and business opportunities with international networks such as Further Education Colleges (UK) and Community Colleges (USA and Canada).

3. Membership

- i. Membership will be open to representatives from all Australian TAFEs holding a registration as a Higher Education Provider on the National Register of Higher Education Providers maintained by TEQSA.

4. Governance

- i. The Network membership will appoint a Chair for a period of two years;
- ii. TDA will provide research and secretariat support for the network ;
- iii. The Network will meet 4 times per year;
- iv. with additional meetings called as required to address specific issues.

5. Administration

- i. The secretariat will provide 4 weeks' notice of meetings;
- ii. The secretariat will distribute an agenda 2 weeks prior to a meeting (unless a meeting is convened urgently);
- iii. The secretariat will distribute minutes of each meeting 1 week following each meeting;
- iv. The secretariat will report to the TDA Board as required.