

Media scan – higher education

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Campus Review Weekly 21 June 2010

[Victoria out-Bradleys the feds](#)

A very positive takeout on the tertiary elements of the Regional Blueprint, which not only out Bradley's the Feds but presents a nuanced de facto response to the Expert Panel's Report.

[Waving a red rag at higher ed's holy cows](#)

The G8 proposes HE student staff ratios of 15:1 and legions of new academics with PhDs to teach them. Not all commentators agree.

[Government under-planning for a student snowball: Go8](#)

G8 analysis is consistent with modelling undertaken for the Expert Panel and Skills Vic analysis: the HE goose is decidedly undercooked. The federal government may have to rejig its plans for an expanded higher education system by uncapping student fees and allowing TAFEs and private providers to deliver government-subsidised degrees.

[CQU looks to reinvent itself as a dual sector](#)

Bowing to the inevitable, Central Queensland University has taken the first steps towards reinventing itself as a dual sector university. It simply can't stand alone. See also [letter HES](#) on the same subject.

HES – The Australian 23 June 2010

[Overseas student market at risk](#)

THE threat to universities from a significant downturn in international students is real and immigration needs to better refine its visa integrity, says Universities Australia chairman Peter Coaldrake. Immigration regulation needs to take a more "risk proportionate" approach.

[Learning is as simple as OECD](#)

ACER is lead partner in an international consortium undertaking a feasibility study of devising a test for graduate attributes independent of institution, country, culture or language for the OECD's International Assessment of Higher Education Learning Outcomes project (the higher education of PISA). In an

interesting outtake, ACER research fellow Hamish Coates observed that such a program would help to counterbalance the predominant focus on research metrics with a focus on education and learning, transforming the debate about quality in higher education.

Double counting the costs

Phil Clarke (HEIF not SV) says infrastructure costs of proposed expansion of higher education are being greatly exaggerated, making the sensible point failed to take account of the potential for universities to improve completion rates, make better use of existing infrastructure or lease temporary space. Quite so but Mr Clarke may himself be underestimating needs as his reasoning is based on the Commonwealth's modelling, which appears seriously flawed.

New SES regime hits the regions

Gavin Moodie points out that new measures of low socioeconomic status to be used to allocate incentive payments (\$378 million over four years) appear to disadvantage rural universities. He suggests that in Victoria, RMIT and VU would be relative winners. There's be no pushback from Victorian regional players as yet?

Taking the toxic out of TEQSA

Greg Craven continues his slightly idiosyncratic demolition of the Commonwealth's proposed TEQSA model, musing that Commonwealth bureaucrats derive "erotic joy" from enforcement and rigorous regulation, from which they must step back. He argues strongly in favour of a model consistent with that posited by Victoria ((except on reference of powers). And he argues that representation of the States within the TEQSA system is more than principle: it is a matter of common sense.

Disadvantaged by official criteria

HES – The Australian 23 June 2010

Very interesting thought piece by Jennifer Oriel which covers a lot of ground on improving low SES participation and completions, measuring outcomes, quality. She suggests that if universities are to be held accountable for expenditure of public funding - as they should be - it must be for factors that are primarily under their control. In the absence of national examinations for university entrance, an academic standard such as Australian Tertiary Admission Rank could be used as a baseline to calibrate student inputs against outputs.

Miscellaneous

On track to deliver world-class tertiary learning for all

The Australian 19 June 2010

It is misleading to suggest the government has ignored Bradley's advice on higher education, says Julia Gillard in a rather insipid effort.