

Craig McInnis – Director

Background

Craig was Professorial Fellow at the University of Melbourne (2006-2007), Professor (2000-2006), and Director of the Centre for the Study of Higher Education (1998-2004). Prior to his university appointments he completed an honours degree in Sociology at La Trobe University while teaching in primary schools, and lecturing in teacher education at State Colleges in Victoria.

He has held a number of international appointments including Visiting Professor at the University of Lancaster, and the Pennsylvania State University. In 2006-7 he was Visiting Professor at the Research Institute for Higher Education, Hiroshima University. He has published widely on higher education, most recently the entry on the university student experience in a forthcoming international encyclopaedia of education.

Craig has led many high profile national and institutional policy projects and initiatives. He has a reputation for innovative solutions to policy challenges. He played a key role in establishing the national agenda to improve the student experience, particularly the transition from school to university and the nature of student engagement.

With almost 20 years experience in higher education research and consultancy, Craig has provided advice to governments and universities on the design and evaluation of degree programmes, international benchmarking, changing academic work roles, quality assurance processes, and system-level approaches to the development of academic standards.

Craig's advice is sought particularly on the conditions needed to promote student engagement and learning outcomes, and institutional responses to changing student profiles and expectations. His work in project and survey design, the facilitation of stakeholder consultations, and strategic planning for the implementation of change and innovations is highly valued. He has conducted course reviews and advice on the design and evaluation of degree programmes in almost every major field of study, and across a wide range of university contexts.

He has designed and facilitated leadership programmes for senior academics in many universities in Australia and overseas, most recently, for the National Institute of Educational Management at the Vietnamese Ministry of Education. Craig was an elected member of the Governing Board of the European-based Consortium of Higher Education Researchers (CHER) from 2002 – 2006, and has conducted consultancies and provided advice for universities and government agencies in New Zealand, Fiji, Ireland, Scotland, England, Portugal, Japan, Malaysia and Vietnam.

Craig's most recent consultancies for governments include: a review of the internationalisation of New Zealand Tertiary Education; a review of career development services in Australian tertiary institutions; and a Government funded feasibility study for a national regional university. At the institutional level Craig has recently investigated and advised on strategic directions for teaching and learning, improvements in the academic calendar, and the management of academic work roles and workloads in a number of universities.

Areas of special focus

- Strategic policy development and implementation
- Organisational review, performance indicators and evaluation
- Quality assurance, accreditation, and academic standards
- Innovation and leadership in course design, delivery and assessment
- Assessing the quality of the student experience

Academic and professional qualifications

Trained Primary Teachers Certificate (Coburg Teachers College) 1967

Bachelor of Arts (Hons) (La Trobe University) 1973

Doctor of Philosophy (University of Melbourne) 1991

(Thesis: Social justice values and student selection)

Significant consulting assignments (examples only)

Australian Learning and Teaching Council/DEEWR - 'A Handbook: Leadership for excellence in learning and teaching in Australian universities' (2011-12)

DEEWR - Development of case studies for the business-school connections roundtable (2011)

DEEWR - Evaluation of the National Disability Coordination Officer Program (2011)

University of Tasmania - Strategic analysis (2011)

A private VET provider – Strategic review of one part of the business (2010-11)

Victoria University – Due diligence stocktake (2010-11)

DEEWR - Good practice in regional higher education provision (2010)

DEEWR - Business-school connections roundtable (2010)

DEEWR – School/business relationships (2009-10)

University of Sydney - Review of the student experience (2009-10)

Charles Sturt University/Southern Cross University - Feasibility study for a national university for regional Australia (2009)

Deakin University - Special advisor to the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic) (2008)

Deakin University - Strategic review of the Faculty of Health, Medicine, Nursing, and Behavioural Sciences (2008)

Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations - National review of career development services in tertiary institutions (2007-2008)

Deakin University - Strategic review of teaching and learning (2007)

Education New Zealand - Pan-Industry professional development strategy (with Vince Catherwood) (2007)

New Zealand Ministry of Education - Internationalisation of New Zealand tertiary organisations (with Vince Catherwood) (2005)

University of Auckland - Review of organisational structures and resources relating to e-learning (2005)

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