

David Phillips – Director and Chair

Background

David Phillips is a Director and Chair of the Board of PhillipsKPA, Australia's leading specialist provider of high level consultancy services to the education and training sectors and related industries. He was the founder in 1996 of the education sector consultancy Phillips Curran which merged with KPA Consulting in 2004 to form PhillipsKPA. He is widely regarded as one of Australia's leading higher education consultants.

David has provided consultancy services to all of Australia's public universities, to government departments and agencies, and to private sector educational institutions, organisations and enterprises. In 2008, he was an adviser to the Review of Australian Higher Education (the Bradley Review), in 2009 he was a member of the Expert Panel advising on a Tertiary Education Plan for Victoria, and he is currently an adviser to the Higher Education Base Funding Review.

Before establishing Phillips Curran, David had a distinguished career with the Commonwealth Government.

He worked with the Special Adviser on Youth Income Support in 1985 and 1986 on a fundamental overhaul of Australia's system of income support for young people. This work led to the introduction of the national student assistance scheme AUSTUDY, the junior unemployment benefit and the youth homeless allowance and to reforms of assistance schemes for Aboriginal and isolated students.

In 1987 and 1988 he was Senior Adviser to the Minister for Employment, Education and Training, John Dawkins, and was closely involved in the development of the 1987 Green Paper and subsequent 1988 White Paper on higher education. He was the Minister's representative on the group which developed the Higher Education Contribution Scheme.

In 1989 he became the head of the Research Branch in the Higher Education Division of the Department of Employment, Education and Training. In that position he played a key role in the formative period of the Australian Research Council.

In 1991 David headed the Secretariat for a joint Commonwealth/State review of young people's participation in education and training (Brian Finn, Chairman) and was closely involved in the Commonwealth/State negotiations which culminated in the formation of the Australian National Training Authority.

In January 1993 he returned to Parliament House as Consultant to the Hon Kim C. Beazley MP, the then Minister for Employment, Education and Training. He remained as Consultant to Mr Beazley when the Minister shifted to the Finance portfolio. He was Mr Beazley's principal policy adviser during the completion of the comprehensive economic and labour market policy Working Nation and the development and finalisation of the 1994/95 Federal Budget.

In mid 1994 he was appointed to the position of Division Head (First Assistant Secretary), Higher Education Division in the Department of Employment, Education and Training, with responsibility for funding and policy in relation to all of Australia's public universities. He remained in that position following the change of Government in 1996 and worked closely with the new Minister, Senator Amanda Vanstone, to develop and implement major reforms to higher education policy and financing.

Areas of special focus

- University management
- Higher education financing, policy and legislation
- Education and training research and analysis
- Cross-sectoral issues
- Education/industry issues
- Strategic planning and institutional strategy
- Financial modelling
- Organisational and program review and evaluation
- Business process improvement

Academic and professional qualifications

Bachelor of Arts (University of Queensland)

Master of Social Planning and Development (thesis: Tertiary education and the labour market) (University of Queensland)

Significant consulting assignments (selected examples only)

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

DEEWR – Expert adviser to Higher Education Base Funding Review (2010-11)

University of Tasmania - Strategic analysis (2011)

Health Workforce Australia – Mapping clinical placements (2010-11)

Victoria University – Due diligence stocktake (2010-11)

NSW Board of Vocational Education and Training - Innovative tertiary pathway models (2010)

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

Victorian Department of Innovation, Industry and Regional Development (DIIRD) - Skills Store evaluation (2009-10)

Universities Australia/TAFE Directors Australia - Unified tertiary sector project (2009-10)

Queensland Health - Mapping the role of the nurse educator along the pathway of lifelong learning (2009)

Assistance with various funding applications, including Structural Adjustment Fund (SAF) and Education Investment Fund (EIF)

Victorian Tertiary Admissions Centre – Strategic review (2009-10)

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

Hong Kong University Grants Committee - University funding methodology (2009)

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

Office of the Minister for Skills and Workforce Participation - Panel Member, Post Bradley Higher Education Strategy (2009)

Hong Kong University Grants Committee - University funding methodology (2009)

University of Technology Sydney - Faculty governance reform for sustainable success (2009)

Monash University - Key presenter at Monash senior management summit (2009)

University of Technology, Sydney – Allied health opportunities (2008)

Queensland Health – Nursing clinical education best practice model (2008)

AUQA - Advice on the Bradley Review (2008)

Monash University - Key presenter, Universities Australia senior admin conference
(2008)

Contact details

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