



AUSTRALIAN COLLABORATIVE EDUCATION NETWORK

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2010

ACEN NATIONAL DIRECTOR'S REPORT

The last year has been a very active and successful year for ACEN. Interest in WIL nationally remains high and ACEN's activities throughout the year have continued to fulfil the mission

"To lead the advancement of WIL in Australia through collaboration with the higher and vocational education sector, students, industry, community and government."

The ACEN National Executive has focused this year on incorporation, enhanced governance, building membership and therefore sustainability. ACEN was incorporated in late 2009 followed by a successful institutional membership drive, which has resulted in significant growth of the organisation with 33 institutions becoming members and close to 800 individuals registered. Another strong focus has been initiating and supporting key national WIL projects through fostering collaboration across organisations. State Chapters have also been very active holding a range of meetings and symposia with WIL research and risk management being key themes during the year (see State reports).

Looking to the future ACEN is in the process of re-forming the ACEN Advisory Committee which Prof Ian Goulter, VC, Charles Sturt University has agreed to chair. Membership will include representatives from key industry associations and the tertiary sector and the advisory group will provide valuable strategic advice to the ACEN National Executive. A Strategic plan for 2011 and beyond is in development and will incorporate ideas generated at this week's research forum, the AGM and from the conference feedback. ACEN will continue to support all aspects of WIL in Australia for example WIL research and Service Learning, with a chapter being formed at this conference to specifically focus on this growing area of interest in Australia. Preparation has commenced for the development of an ACEN auspiced ALTC application in 2011 regarding the development of WIL Leadership for Australia and planning for the 2012 conference, which will be held in Victoria, has also commenced.

The National Executive continues to utilise the results of the ACEN supported ALTC National Scoping Study, The WIL Report, in planning and developing initiatives to support WIL in Australia, with a number of ACEN initiatives developed over the year.

The first WIL Scholarship was awarded in 2010 to a student at James Cook University. Through analysis of the applications, the National Executive identified issues in relation to WIL and social inclusion resulting in the decision to expand the scheme and award 3 scholarships to students in 2011. The Scholarship process for 2011 will commence shortly. ACEN has continued to advocate for sustainable support systems to assist students with economic and related hardships to undertake WIL and has met with organisations such as Universities Australia to share these findings and jointly advocate for change.

ACEN continues to support Australian research into WIL with National Executive members Deborah Peach and David Jorgensen attending, by invitation, an International WIL Research Symposium on Vancouver Island in 2009 representing Australia and through them to ACEN and maintains involvement in the research teams and projects established. Subsequently, ACEN facilitated a meeting of Australian



WIL researchers in Hong Kong at the WACE International Symposium and has organised a Research Symposium in association with the 2010 ACEN National Conference in Perth. The symposium's aim is to further refine the WIL scholarship and research priorities currently in Australia. ACEN's focus will be to develop from those priorities a strategic plan for WIL scholarship and research, forge research partnerships and develop coordinated collaborative, multi-institutional initiatives. It is planned to hold research symposiums with all future national conferences and ACEN is planning to develop other initiatives to support research in 2011 and beyond. Two special WIL Special Edition Journals have been initiated by ACEN, publishing manuscripts from invited authors having presented papers at the 2008 WACE/ACEN Asia-Pacific Conference in Sydney. These WIL Special Editions of the Asia Pacific Journal of Cooperative Education (APJCE) and Higher Education Research and Development (HERD) Journal were published in 2009 and 2010 respectively.

The National WIL Portal, an ACEN project lead by Victoria University with 34 partner universities continues to move towards its launch in Semester 1 2011. Progress to date has included a scoping and planning stage, followed by extensive consultation with both industry and the tertiary sector resulting in the development of specifications for the portal. Through a tender process Career Hub has been contracted to develop the portal and a prototype has been developed which is being demonstrated to both industry and tertiary sectors for feedback. This project has been supported by a two tier advisory structure including representatives from all ACEN state chapters and key major industry and professional associations in Australia.

ACEN has been very active in establishing links both to both WIL national and international associations and Australian industry and professional bodies. ACEN negotiated an arrangement with the World Association of Cooperative Education (WACE) whereby membership of ACEN includes automatic concurrent World Association of Cooperative Education (WACE) membership with a range of benefits to ACEN members. ACEN maintains active communication with WACE, the New Zealand Association (NZACE) through a joint Board member, ASET, in the UK and through active participation in WACE projects and conferences to other associations in Canada and South Africa. This results in ACEN members being kept abreast of international developments in the sector and participation in ACEN projects by international associations. We welcome to this national Conference a number of members from the New Zealand, Canadian and South African associations.

ACEN continues to forge strong links to key industry, professional and community peak bodies representing key stakeholders and partners in Work Integrated Learning with productive meetings with Australian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ACCI), Professions Australia and Universities Australia during the last 12 months. We are very grateful to Mary Hicks ACCI, Peter Tyree (BHERT) and Ben Reeves (AAGE) for their contributions to the National Conference. The Australian Industry Group, Australian Association of Graduate Employers, TAFE Directors Australia, Universities Australia and Australian Computer Association Foundation are also on the National WIL Portal Advisory Group and are providing invaluable advice to the project

ACEN has initiated regular comprehensive newsletters to ACEN members providing national and international WIL updates, articles and events. The ACEN website has also been revamped and refreshed this year to ensure that members have access to the latest WIL information and ACEN contacts. State chapters have been also been active in enhancing dialogue and exchanges with members on key topics through regular meetings, workshops and forums. The national conferences continue also to be an important forum for networking and exchanges, and ACEN is pleased that this bi-

annual event continues to grow, with close to 200 delegates here at Curtin University in Perth participating in this comprehensive and impressive conference program.

I would like to express my sincere thanks to all members of the current ACEN National Executive for their support and enormous contribution to ACEN activities through out the year. I would like to particularly thank Matthew Campbell for his contribution as Treasurer, David Jorgensen as Secretary, Cait Ryan for her work on the website and newsletter and Dineli Mather for her contribution to the revamp of the website. I would also like to thank the State Chairs for their important contribution to ACEN; Sonia Ferns, Verity Kingsmill, Dineli Mather, Freny Tayebjee and Deborah Peach. I would like to say a very special thanks to Jim Elliott who stepped in when Jennie Walsh retired and has worked tirelessly leading the organisation of the National Conference. Thanks also to Rick Cummings for his organisation of the 2010 research Symposium.

At this time I would also like to thank the National Executive members who have resigned during the year for their important contribution to ACEN: Carol-Joy Patrick, Linda Cuttris, Jennie Walsh and Jill Kelton. I would also like to thank Dawn Oliver who provided invaluable executive assistance to the National Executive and the conference organisation.

STATE CHAPTER REPORTS

New South Wales

The NSW Chapter of ACEN held two very successful forums in 2010: "Risk Management and Legal Issues related to Work Integrated Learning" in April and "Evaluation and research in Work Integrated Learning" in August. Both forums were well attended by NSW members as well as a large number of interstate members. The forums provided delegates with the opportunity to have robust discussions on topics such as the complexities of the 2009 Fair Work Act and its implications on unpaid work, using Leximancer to identify themes from a mass of raw data for WIL research, obtaining ethics clearance and strategies for publishing on WIL.

Queensland

ACEN-Q in 2010 welcomed newly elected members: Ian Devenish, Central Queensland University; Paul Kidd, James Cook University, Dr Liz Ruinard Griffith University; Lyris Snowden, University Sunshine Coast, and Melissa Mehonoshen, University Sunshine Coast. Dr Deborah Peach, Queensland University of Technology, was re-elected as Chair. Former ACENQ Executive members Carol-Joy Patrick, Dr Jeanne Allen and Fleur Webb left a strong foundation for the current ACEN-Q.

2010 has seen ACEN-Q promote activities to heighten awareness of ACEN and encourage new members. In February, USC hosted a videoconference where a range of WIL experiences were presented. June saw the highly informative ALTC National Teaching Fellowship presentation by Professor Stephen Billet at Griffith University. On November 4, Griffith University will host an ACEN-Q event featuring short presentations from staff. Many of ACEN-Q will be attending the national conference in Perth and look forward to meeting members from other state chapters.

South Australia/Northern Territory

The South Australia State chapter held an open meeting for current, new and investigating members at the end of May. In response to discussions, and suggestions from previous events, it was decided for the State to have key focus areas, with the implementation of three Pilot working groups being established. The three key areas established were: 1. Research, 2. Innovation & 3. Symposiums.

Members were invited to join any or all of the focus areas, and have met to establish aims and targets for the pilot groups. The increase and uptake of new members at a State level initially has been slow (from those with institutional Membership), but momentum has been building in the later part of the year. This is expected to steadily increase over the next 12 months as WIL continues to grow in prominence and momentum within institutional communities.

Victoria/Tasmania

The South Australia State chapter met on the 22nd of April at Victoria University in Melbourne. One of the main items of business was a presentation from Fair Work Australia on the impact of the recent changes to workplace regulations which was followed by much debate and questions from the audience. The WIL showcase was made by the University of Ballarat highlighting their Bachelor of IT cooperative education program with IBM.

The Victorian Chapter also hosted a roundtable discussion with the Victorian State Government Joint Policy Unit on Youth Transitions within the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development (DEECD) and the Department of Innovation, Industry and Rural Development (DIIRD) about State Government initiatives to advance Work Integrated Learning (WIL) in Victoria. WIL representatives from each Victorian University, nominated by the corresponding DVC(A)'s, participated in this event. .

The Vic/Tas membership has continued to grow with a big surge in members since the institutional memberships were announced. This chapter now had 242 members registered by the end of August.

Western Australia

The WA chapter of ACEN has seen some changes in 2010 with the retirement of Jennie Walsh who was the inaugural State Chair of ACEN WA. Jennie was tireless in her efforts to promote and build ACEN WA and was instrumental in establishing the profile of ACEN with both the university and industry sector. Jennie has left a strong legacy and the foundations of a well established organisation. Sonia Ferns from Curtin University was elected State Chair and Megan Le Clus from Edith Cowan University elected Secretary at the AGM. With WA hosting the 2010 ACEN conference at Curtin University, much of the year has been dedicated to organising this event. Jim Elliott has taken on the role of convener and done a superb job in coordinating and fine tuning arrangements. We look forward to welcoming our international and national guests for an informative occasion with lots of opportunities for networking.

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE MEMBERS

Ms Judie Kay	National Director and External Engagement
Assoc Prof David Jorgensen	Secretary and Scholarship
Mr Matthew Campbell,	Treasurer
Ms Freney Tayebjee	NSW/ACT Chair and Membership & Linkages
Ms Verity Kingsmill,	SA/NT Chair
Dr Deborah Peach,	QLD Chair and Professional Development
Ms Cait Ryan	Marketing and Communication
Ms Dineli Mather	VIC Chair and Marketing & Communication
Ms Sonia Ferns	WA Chair
Mr Rick Cummings	Research Symposium Chair
Dr Jim Elliot	Conference Chair