

[PDaL home](#)
[Awards](#)
[Contact School](#)
[News & events](#)
[PDaL staff](#)
[Professional Development](#)
[Programs](#)
[Research](#)
[Postgraduate](#)
[Faculty home](#)

## CHEMP e-news



### FREE TRIAL SERVICE

HE Info is a weekly electronic information service produced by the [Centre for Higher Education Management & Policy](#) at the [University of New England](#), Armidale, Australia. The purpose is to provide regular updates on the News, Publications, Events and other items of interest relating to Higher Education Policy particularly in, but not restricted to Australia. We do not claim to present all items of relevance but we do hope to achieve a good coverage of the main issues.

The service is currently in its developmental phase, so if you have any comments relating to content or if you would like to be added to, or removed from, the mailing list for the new issue alert please email [chemp@une.edu.au](mailto:chemp@une.edu.au)

All information presented in each issue has been accessed from a variety of sources. Every effort has been made to acknowledge these where appropriate.

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[HEconferences](#) | [Past Issues](#)

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## 14 December 2006

- [News Items & Articles](#)
- [New Publications](#)
- [New Conferences Listings](#)
- [Websites of Interest](#)

## News Items & Articles

### INTERNATIONAL ITEMS

**RAE rethink (THES 08 Dec)** – "The Government has abandoned "crude monometrics" in its proposed research quality system".

**University grants to include sum for work with business (THES 07 Dec)** – "For the first time the Government's block grants for university research will include a sum related to the amount of work an institution does with business. The Higher Education Funding Council for England is to allocate £60 million of research grants in this way next year."

**A new Carnegie classification (Inside Higher Ed 07 Dec)** – The Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching has introduced a new elective community engagement classification. Institutions were classified by curricular engagement, and outreach and partnerships.

**Scientists concerned over research assessment changes (Education Guardian 07 Dec)** - "Research in science, engineering and technology will not be subject to peer review to assess funding after 2008, the government has revealed."

**Researchers vilified (THES 01 Dec)** – "The Government stands accused of undermining academe's "vital independence" after academic critics revealed how far politicians have gone to discredit them".

For these and other stories navigate directly to [THES](#) | [Inside Higher Ed](#) | [Education Guardian](#)

## AUSTRALIAN NEWS ITEMS

**Report doubts student polling (Australian, 13 Dec:19)** – "Universities' ability to influence student survey outcomes is under scrutiny amid moves to transform the surveys into better instruments for determining funding allocations."

**ARC sold on open access to research (Australian, 13 Dec:19)** – "Australia has taken a great leap towards research results being freely available to all, supporters of the open access movement say."

**Sandstones continue to dominate performance funding (Campus Review, 13 Dec:1,14)** – "Universities have praised the new approach for calculating the 2007 Learning and Teaching Performance Fund rankings, following an outcry over the 2006 methodology, but warn that more work needs to be done to ensure efficiency and transparency."

**Was it all just sound and fury? (Campus Review, 13 Dec:4)** – "One single institution arguably triggered the most significant change in Australia's higher education sector in 2006. Dubbed the Melbourne Model, the institution's curriculum initiative led to Federal Government funding support for a new model of graduate programs for degrees in the professions."

**RQF to reduce research and teaching (Campus Review, 06 Dec:6)** – "The Federal Government is under mounting pressure to properly fund the Research Quality Framework, with the Business Council of Australia, the AVCC and the NTEU all expressing concern at the cost of implementing and running it."

**Demand for uni places rebounds (Australian, 06 Dec:21)** – "Applications for university places have turned around after two years of dramatic falls during which institutions were unable to fill thousands of funded places, new figures from the Department of Education, Science and Training show."

**Blurring divide between arts and science (Australian, 06 Dec:21)** – "The term science should be expanded to include the humanities and social sciences to help overcome funding and status bias against them, says a new report for the Council for the Humanities, Arts and Social Sciences."

**Monash culls staff in quality bid (Australian, 06 Dec:23)** – "Monash University is continuing to cut staff numbers in a bid to carve out a stronger research profile while maintaining its budget targets."

For these and other stories access newspapers directly at [Australian](#) | [Campus Review](#)

## **MEDIA RELEASES: MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, SCIENCE & TRAINING, HON JULIE BISHOP**

**Expert Panel to Oversee Stronger Australia-India Research Ties (13 Dec)** – “The Minister for Education, Science and Training, the Hon Julie Bishop MP, has appointed Australian of the Year, Professor Ian Frazer, to chair an expert advisory panel to encourage greater scientific collaboration between India and Australia. ... The Fund, announced by the Prime Minister during his visit to India in March this year, provides \$20 million over five years to facilitate and support science and technology research cooperation between the two countries.”

**\$83 million for teaching excellence in Australia’s universities (07 Dec)** – “The Minister for Education, Science and Training, the Hon Julie Bishop MP, today announced the twenty-one universities which are being recognised for excellence with awards from the \$83 million in the Learning and Teaching Performance Fund for 2007. ... Universities were recognised for their achievements in the following discipline groups: Science, Computing, Engineering, Architecture and Agriculture; Business, Law and Economics; Humanities, Arts and Education; and Health.”

To access the Media Releases navigate to  
<http://www.dest.gov.au/ministers/bishop/media.asp>

 [Back to top](#)

## **New Publications**

**Metcalfe, J., Riedlinger, M., Pisarski, A. & Gardner, J. 2006, 'Collaborating across the sectors - The relationships between the humanities, arts and social sciences (HASS) and science, technology, engineering and medicine sectors (STEM)', CHASS Occasional Papers, Council for the Humanities Arts and Social Sciences** – The DEST funded report makes 5 recommendations “which serve to remove the institutional and funding impediments to conducting” collaborative research projects which span the traditional disciplinary boundaries to tackle the “big issues” such as “caring for an aging population, maintaining water supply, cyber crime, and aboriginal health and welfare”.

To access the report, navigate to <http://www.chass.org.au/>

**FEAST (Forum for European-Australian Science and Technology cooperation) Latest Newsletter, Vol 24, Nov 2006** – This issue provides a summary of the FEAST Conference 2006, Research without borders as well as articles on the 7th Framework Program and The Australian Researchers’ Mobility Portal.

To access the newsletter, navigate to <http://www.feast.org/?newsletters>

**Australian Innovation Festival December 2006 Newsletter** – “The Australian Innovation Festival Newsletter, Ausinnovation News, contains up to date information about the 2006 Australian Innovation Festival, Australian and international innovation news, profiles on events, people and more.”

To access the newsletter, navigate to  
<http://www.ausinnovation.org/InnovationFestival/News/Newsletter.htm>

**Australian Bureau of Statistics, 6227.0 Education and Work, Australia, May 2006** – “This publication presents information about the educational experience of persons aged 15-64 years, especially in relation to their labour force status. ... Information collected in the survey includes: participation in education in the year prior to the survey, and in the survey month; labour force characteristics; type of educational institution; level of education of current and

previous study; highest year of school completed; level of highest non-school qualification; level of highest educational attainment; unmet demand for education in current year; and selected characteristics of apprentices."

To access the publication navigate to

<http://www.abs.gov.au/AUSSTATS/abs@.nsf/mf/6227.0?OpenDocument>

 [Back to top](#)

## New Conferences Listings

FOR A FULL LISTING OF UP AND COMING EVENTS FOLLOW THIS [LINK](#)

### **CHEMP International Study Program on Research Commercialisation, Regional Engagement & Future University Directions, Visiting San Diego, Los Angeles and San Francisco, 25 Feb to 6 March 2007 -**

Designed for senior university executives/managers, governing body members, and university commercialisation company executives, this program will focus particularly on:

- \* Research commercialisation, technology licensing, start-ups and regional engagement

- \* Research management, including relations with the NSF and industry, monitoring performance, and the use of metrics

- \* Innovation and future directions for teaching, research and graduate research training

- \* Private and 'for-profit' higher education providers

For further information please visit

<http://www.une.edu.au/pdal/research/chemp/projects/tours/calif0207.php>

### **1st Global Conference: The Value of Knowledge, Sydney, 12 to 14 February 2007 -**

The conference aims to bring together people from different areas, disciplines, professions and interests to share ideas and explore various discussions which are innovative and exciting. Proposed themes include: The Nature and Purpose of Higher Education; Virtual Learning and Higher Education; and Society, Culture and the of Places of Higher Education.

To find out more navigate to <http://www.inter-disciplinary.net/ati/education/tvk/tvk1/cfp.htm>

### **Rankings, RAEs and RQFs: Their Impact on Asian and Australian Universities, Perth, 15-16 February 2007 -**

"A symposium on the national assessment of research in universities. Addressing the issues:

- \* How do nations in our region assess research in universities?

- \* What are the short- and long-term consequences of different approaches to research quality assessments for academics and universities?

- \* Are research assessments like the RAE and the RQF effective in improving the quality of research?

Full Registration \$45, Concession \$10. To register, navigate to

<http://www.ias.uwa.edu.au>. For further information and venue maps, please contact the Institute of Advanced Studies on (08) 6488 1340 or

[ias@admin.uwa.edu.au](mailto:ias@admin.uwa.edu.au)

 [Back to top](#)

## Websites of Interest

**The Australian Researchers' Mobility Portal** provides information for researchers planning to move to or out of Australia. It provides links to other country mobility portals, Australian and International funding opportunities and important information about working overseas.

To find out more, navigate to <http://www.mobility.org.au/>

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