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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

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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29 March 2007

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News Items & Articles

INTERNATIONAL ITEMS

Corporate push spawns 24/7 culture (THES: 23 Mar) – “Rising student numbers and the arrival of corporate-style human resource management in the sector, combined with a customer-focused approach to students, mean that academics have to be constantly available to managers and students, according to union leaders and academics.”

EU plans for 'enforceable' code (THES: 23 Mar) – “UK universities could be forced to adhere to the European Commission's Charter for Researchers and Code of Conduct for the Recruitment of Researchers under Commission plans to introduce 'enforceable mechanisms'.”

Towards an African higher education area (GUNI) – “Although the Bologna process is not without faults, it can be of interest to nations outside Europe. The model on which the European Higher Education Area was based may provide inspiration for other parts of the world.”

Oxford targets bright young things of eastern Europe (Education Guardian, 22 Mar) – “The University of Oxford hopes to entice eastern Europe’s brightest students with scholarships worth £25,000 a year from October.”

University of Manchester to axe 400 staff (THES, 20 Mar) – “Four hundred jobs are to go at the University of Manchester to clear a £30 million debt, it has emerged.”

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

AUSTRALIAN ITEMS

Division over role for audit agency (Australian, 28 Mar: 33) – “Federal Education Minister Julie Bishop has accused the states of blocking her efforts to strengthen the quality audit agency amid concerns by universities over its cost and effectiveness.”

Report rejects protected funding (Australian, 28 Mar: 35) - “Universities playing the research quality framework money game should not be protected against big losses in funding, the Productivity Commission has recommended.”

The emperor’s new clothes (Campus Review, 27 Mar: 1, 6) – “Lecturers are under pressure to “soft mark” international students whose inadequate English communication skills make them highly susceptible to plagiarism”.

Out of kilter: balancing graduate demand and supply (Campus Review, 27 Mar: 3) – “A mismatch between the number of graduates universities produce and labour market demand can only be remedied by deregulation of the higher education sector.”

Good research wins security (Australian, 21 March: 33) – “The first wave of retirement offers sparked by the new research evaluation framework has begun in Victoria. Yet some academics predict the research quality framework could propel Australia in the welcome direction of greater job security for those most vulnerable on campus - research specialists on fixed-term contracts - as has happened in Britain.”

Wasteful universities claim sparks furious response (Sydney Morning Herald, 16 Mar: 5) – “The federal Minister for Education, Julie Bishop, has offered no apologies for putting the squeeze on universities, saying they needed to prove they were working at optimum efficiency before they could cry poor.”

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

New Publications

Productivity Commission, 27 March 2007, *Public Support for Science and Innovation* – “The Commission argues that the objectives of Cooperative Research Centres should be re-aligned to the broad attainment of economic, social and environmental goals, not just commercial ones. Strong public funding support is justified for Rural R&D Corporations that have a significant public good orientation. But the Commission considers that the level of public co-funding for some of the more industry-focused corporations could be too high and should be re-assessed. ... The Commission found that there would be a better chance of stimulating R&D in the business sector if there were changes to the design and scope of the \$600 million R&D Tax Concession. ... The Commission canvasses some options that might increase the possibility of net benefits from the recent Government decision to adopt the Research Quality Framework (RQF).”

To access the report, navigate to <http://www.pc.gov.au/study/science/finalreport/index.html>

Presentations to the 2006 FEAST Conference, *Research Without Borders* are now available from their website at <http://www.feast.org/conference2006/presentations.html>

Europe in Figures, *Eurostat Yearbook 2006-07* – “With almost 400 statistical tables, graphs and maps, the yearbook treats areas such as population, education, health, living conditions and welfare, the labour market, the economy, international trade, industry and services, science and technology, the environment, agriculture, forestry and fisheries, and European regions.”

To access the publication, navigate to

http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/portal/page?_pageid=2693,61100649,2693_62309131&_dad=portal&_schema=PORTAL

New Conferences Listings

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

Announcement and Call for Papers – *Changing students - Changing universities: Developments and Policies*, Fourth International Workshop on Higher Education Reforms, Dublin, September 1 – 2, 2007 – “The Workshop will particularly focus

on developments and policies, both governmental and institutional, that aim at (1) widening access to degree studies and innovating curricula, (2) improving teaching and learning conditions for students to acquire relevant knowledge and skills and complete their studies, and (3) evaluating teaching methods, management and outcomes.”

To find out more, navigate to <http://www.srhe.ac.uk/events.asp>

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