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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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News Items & Articles

INTERNATIONAL ITEMS

Johnson takes vocational message to European ministers (17 May: Education Guardian) – “The education secretary, Alan Johnson, today put UK reforms around widening participation and promoting more vocational degrees to create graduates fit for the workplace on to the European agenda.”

Point of no return to Bologna (Inside Higher Ed: 14 May) – “Eighty-two percent of European universities now have “Bologna Cycles” in place — up from 53 percent just four years ago, according to a survey of 900 institutions

released last week by the European University Association.”

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

AUSTRALIAN ITEMS

Media Release - A further \$31 million available to enhance university facilities (17 May, DEST) – “The Minister for Education, Science and Training, the Hon Julie Bishop MP, today invited universities to apply for \$31 million to enhance the amenities available to students through new and improved sporting and recreational facilities and services provided by small businesses on regional campuses.”

EU – Australia Joint Declaration on Cooperation in Education and Training Signed (Australian Education International, 16 May) – “The Joint Declaration expresses their willingness to further strengthen co-operation by promoting policy dialogue and joint projects between higher education and vocational education and training institutions in the EU and Australia. The Joint Declaration identifies the Bologna Process (higher education harmonisation in Europe) as an issue of potential policy dialogue between the EU and Australia.”

Cash welcome but it's no bonanza (Australian, 16 May: 21) – “Education Minister Julie Bishop has confirmed that universities will have to agree to deliver greater efficiencies to qualify for the transition from one to three-year funding agreements announced in last week's federal budget. She also confirmed the \$5 billion Higher Education Endowment Fund would eventually supersede existing commonwealth funding sources for university capital works.”

Cap lifted but local students won't wear it (Australian, 16 May: 23) – “The removal of the cap on full-fee domestic students is academic and will have little effect on campus, most vice-chancellors have predicted.”

Lack of funding formula irks unis (Australian, 16 May: 24) – “As the research quality framework juggernaut rolls on, there is growing unease within universities about how more than \$500 million in research funds will be allocated. More than two years after preparation for the RQF began, the federal Government has still not revealed the funding formula that will reward the winners.”

Philanthropic paradox (Australian, 16 May: 26) – “The new endowment fund could confuse the issue of the best way to finance higher education”.

University pay scales fail to match up (Campus Review, 15 May: 1, 4) – “Australian universities are failing to reach international benchmarks designed to ensure fair pay for tertiary teaching staff, a study published in the Journal of Higher Education Policy and Management says.”

Federal dream of national system a step closer (Campus Review, 15 May: 4) – “The notion that higher education will on day come solely under federal control took a step closer to realization with last week's budget, according to a constitutional law expert”.

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

New Publications

Ján Figel', 19 April 2007, Speech - *The Future of Education - Bologna and Beyond*, University of Sydney – Ján Figel' is the Commissioner for Education, Training, Culture, and Youth from the European Commission. The aim of his visit was to promote the education and training relationship between the EU and Australia.

To access the address, navigate to http://www.delous.ec.europa.eu/pressandinformation/speeches/Figel_USYD.htm

Joint Declaration on Cooperation in Education and Training – The Joint Declaration was signed by Mr Ján Figel' (Commissioner for Education, Training, Culture and Youth, European Commission) and The Hon Julie Bishop MP (Minister for Education, Science and Training) on 18 April 2007. The aim to further strengthen their co-operation by promoting policy dialogue and cooperation projects between higher education and vocational training institutions in the European Union and Australia.

To access the declaration, navigate to <http://www.delaus.ec.europa.eu/education/JointDeclarationOnEducation.htm>

New Conferences Listings

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

EOPHEA 2007 Conference "Ethics and Equity; Revaluating Social Responsibility in Education", Melbourne, 19th - 22nd November 2007 - The conference aims to provide space for practitioners and policy makers to reflect on and critically analyse how we understand values, ethics and social responsibility in the current educational context. There will also be opportunities for sharing good practice and equity initiatives, for staff and students in universities and vocational education and training.

For further information navigate to <http://conferences.vu.edu.au/EOPHEA2007/Home.html>

20th annual CHER conference "The Research Mission of the University", Dublin, 30 August to 1. September 2007 – to find out more, navigate to <http://www.uni-kassel.de/incher/CHER/Conference.htm>

2nd European Education Policy Network Meeting: Advancing the European Education Agenda, Brussels, 30 November to 1 December 2007 – "The Network's 2007 conference series on the European Education Agenda aims to stimulate debate among academics and policymakers on education policy developments in the European political arena. At these three meetings, participants will analyse and critique the European educational agenda, consider its future direction and explore new research avenues."

To find out more, navigate to <http://www.educationpolicy.eu/>

Third Global Forum on International Quality Assurance, Accreditation and the Recognition of Qualifications "Learners and New Higher Education Spaces: from Principles to Practice", Dar es Salaam, Tanzania: 13–14 September 2007 - "The Global Forum will serve as a means to promote different information tools for students and other stakeholders as a means of empowerment for making choices based on quality, which remains at the heart of the debates: the UNESCO/OECD Guidelines for Quality Provision in Cross-border Higher Education, the pilot project for a UNESCO Portal of Recognized Higher Education Institutions, the conventions on the recognition of qualifications as a means to promote mobility for students and other mobility tools such as the Diploma Supplement or the credit transfer system. Issues such as bogus institutions and degree mills, impact of social software on higher education, brain drain, refugee populations and migrations will also be viewed from the learners' and policy-makers' perspectives."

To find out more, navigate to http://www.harare.unesco.org/newsletter/2007/qa/qa_global2.htm

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