

# ACODE ANNUAL REPORT 2007

*ACODE hopes its diverse blend of members, with experience in teaching and learning theory, learning technologies, institutional planning and research, information management, quality and benchmarking all contribute to a view of quality in teaching and learning that goes beyond a set of quantitative measures.*

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## From the President

2007 was an eventful and successful year for ACODE.

The regular ACODE workshops continued to be well attended and much appreciated by participants. We also thank our many workshop contributors for their involvement.

In addition to our normal workshop programme, we launched the inaugural ACODE Learning Technologies Leadership Institute, ran workshops on behalf of the Carrick Institute (now ALTC) to introduce the ACODE Benchmarks across Australia and were invited by the New

Zealand Ministry of Education to present a similar workshop at the IMS Global meeting in Queenstown.

Our membership has remained stable during the year while the number of affiliate members has increased.

During the year we have had a number of executive changes although following elections in November, all the positions have now been filled. However, the changes in the Executive and the relocation of the Secretariat have resulted in this report being produced later than intended.



**ACODE President**  
**Gordon Suddaby**

## ACODE 2007 Executive Committee

At the beginning of 2007, the ACODE Executive Committee members were:

Professor Denise Kirkpatrick (President) (La Trobe), Professor Alan Smith (Vice-President) (USQ), Gordon Suddaby (Massey University), David Green (Flinders University of SA) and Professor Alan Farley (Deakin University).

During the year, Professor Denise Kirkpatrick resigned as President when she took up a position as Pro Vice Chancellor, Teaching and Learning at the UK Open University mid year.



**Professor Denise Kirkpatrick**

Professor Alan Smith, who succeeded Professor Kirkpatrick as President also resigned at the end of 2007 and David Green decided not to stand for re-election to the Executive.



**Professor Alan Smith**

Professor Alan Farley joined the Executive in 2007 as a co-opted member. He was elected during the year to the position of Vice-President and later stepped into the role of Acting President until an election was held at which Gordon Suddaby was elected President for 2008-2009.



**Professor Alan Farley**

Associate Professor Helen Carter (University of Canberra) had been co-opted to Executive during the 2007 year and was elected to the Executive for 2008-2009 as Treasurer.

Also elected to the Executive during the year were Amgad Louka (RMIT) and Stephen Marshall (Victoria University of Wellington). These results were confirmed at the AGM held on 23 November 2007 at Flinders University.



LTLI 2007

*“Outcomes of past symposiums are highly respected as is the value of ACODE Institute and other projects.”*



LTLI 2007

## Thanks to

On behalf of ACODE I would like to express the thanks and appreciation of members to Professors Kirkpatrick and Smith and to David Green for their contribution to ACODE through their service on Executive.

I would also like to acknowledge the tremendous contribution that our Executive Officer, Susan Brosnan has made to ACODE and the efficient running of the organisation and for all the work she has done for the Council. Susan resigned following her period of maternity leave.



Susan Brosnan



Marisa Parker

I would also like to thank Marisa Parker who undertook the Executive Officer role while Susan was on leave until she left for a permanent position at USQ, and Louise Williamson who, as Alan Smith's PA, has also helped with the organisation and running of ACODE. These changes have resulted in the need to appoint a new Executive Officer and to find an Institution in which to locate the Secretariat. We are delighted that the University of Canberra has agreed to host the Secretariat.

## Membership

In 2007 ACODE had 42 financial Institutional Members consisting of universities from Australia, New Zealand and the University of the South Pacific.

During the year, ACODE welcomed the University of Ballarat as a member and the

College of Law in Sydney became an affiliate member.

Our current affiliates include: TAFE NSW/OTEN, Open Learning Australia, Education.au, Open & Distance Learning Association of Australia (ODLAA) and TAFE Queensland.

Also during 2007, a number of institutional delegates retired and we would like to acknowledge the contribution of those representatives; Mary-Jane Mahony (Sydney University), Jim Millar (Edith Cowan University) and Alistair Inglis (University of Victoria).

## Strategic Priorities

The ACODE Strategic Plan provided the direction for the Council during 2007. The key principles of the plan which informed ACODE's work priorities are:

- \* Advising and influencing key bodies in higher education
- \* Disseminating and sharing knowledge and experience
- \* Supporting professional development
- \* Investigating, developing and evaluating new approaches
- \* Promoting best practice.



Learning Technologies Leadership Institute 2007

## Advising and influencing key bodies in higher education

Relationships were further developed with affiliate members and with DEST, AVCC, and the Carrick Institute for Learning and Teaching in Higher Education through formal meetings and a range of other less formal interactions.

Activities included:

- \* Discussions with Anne Baly and Sharon Leigh from Learning and Teaching, Higher Education Branch

who sought input from ACODE on the Learning and Teaching Enhancement Project.

- \* Discussions with Evan Arthur and Margot Bell to discuss RQF, NCRIS and linkages from the Innovations and Research Branch with the Learning and Teaching Branch.

- \* Discussions were held with Murray Leach and Murray Brown, both senior managers with NZ Ministry of Education.

During the year, ACODE submitted responses, on behalf of members, to the DEST Learning and Teaching Performance Fund document and to the New Zealand Ministry of Education on their discussion paper on the draft NZ ICT Strategic Framework for Education; Connecting the Sector.

## Disseminating and sharing knowledge and experience

ACODE has continued to enhance its relationship with CAUDIT and CAUL, participating in the two joint Executive meetings in 2007, including chairing one of the meetings.

The ACODE workshop programme continues to be extremely successful and provides an effective vehicle for sharing expertise and experiences, addressing issues of significance to our members and the wider sector, and providing opportunities for networking across institutions, states, and international boundaries. Three workshops were held in 2007, these were:

**ACODE 43 in Melbourne:** Using technologies for transnational delivery, attended by 37 Institutional representatives.

**ACODE 44 in Brisbane:** Supporting Student Engagement through Personal Learning Environments attended by 38 Institutional representatives.

**ACODE 45 in Adelaide:** Benchmarking Professional/Staff Development for the Effective use of Technologies for Learning and Teaching attended by 38 Institutional representatives.



**ACODE's inaugural Learning Technologies Leadership Institute (LTI)** was held from 19-23 August 2007 at the Peppers Resort in Kingscliff NSW. This was an exciting initiative with 27 participants from 20 Australian and New Zealand Universities attending as well as representation from the University of the South Pacific. ACODE would like to express its thanks to CAUDIT who provided advice and support in getting this initiative off the ground. The Learning Technologies Leadership Institute meets an important need in Australasia and we are looking to hold this event on a regular basis, most likely every two years initially.

**ACODE together with CAUL and CAUDIT** co-hosted the successful Educause Conference in Melbourne 29 April – 2 May 2007. The programme included a workshop focused on the outcomes of the ACODE funded project developing guidelines for portfolios for flexible learning developers, led by Jenny Bird of Southern Cross University.



**The ACODE Benchmark project** which developed 8 benchmarks for technology supported learning accompanied by good practice statements, performance indicators, and performance measures was presented to the Australian Vice Chancellors Committee DVC Academic Group and the Carrick Institute for Learning and Teaching in Higher Education. ACODE subsequently received funding from the Carrick Institute to disseminate the ACODE e-learning benchmarks. Christine Goodacre facilitated a series of workshops to disseminate the benchmarks and benchmarking process.

These were held in capital cities during August and September 2007 and took participants through the benchmarking process. In addition, the New Zealand Ministry of Education sponsored a similar benchmark workshop at the IMS Global Conference held in Queenstown in November.

**Alan Smith represented ACODE on the Middleware Action Plan and Strategy (MAPS) project.** A short report on the MAPS project was written by Alan for distribution to members.

**The Resource Identification Network (RIN) project** was a collaborative effort between ACODE, ascilite and Education.au to provide a centrally coordinated repository service to facilitate the sharing and adoption of good practice in learning and teaching. Following submission of our Carrick Exchange Bridging Proposal, ACODE was involved in the development of a formative evaluation process for the Carrick Exchange RIN project.

## **ACODE ANNUAL REPORT 2007**

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**excellence in teaching and  
learning in higher education**



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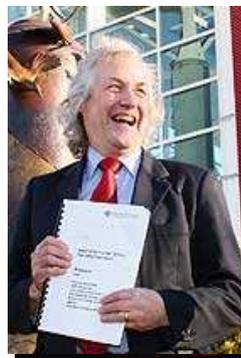
Through its activities ACODE seeks to influence policy and practice at institutional, national and international levels. ACODE meets three times a year for two days at meetings hosted by member institutions across Australasia. The two day meetings usually consist of a one day workshop on a topic of policy and/or practice for Directors/Managers of university teaching and learning units or units concerned with open, distance or e-learning. A business meeting is held on the second day and usually incorporates a site visit at the host institution.

Through its affiliation with key learning and teaching bodies including the Council of Australian University Librarians (CAUL) and the Council of Australian University Directors of Information Technology (CAUDIT), ACODE aims to inform Australian government policy-makers of best practice in e-Learning.

### **Supporting professional development**

ACODE provides funds to support research and development projects by members in areas of broad sector learning and teaching interest.

During 2007, funding was granted to Stephen Marshall (of Victoria University of Wellington) and Geoff Mitchell (of University of Queensland) to run the highly successful eMaturity Model initiative in a number of Australian Universities.



**Gordon Suddaby  
August 2008**