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17TH IDP AUSTRALIAN INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION CONFERENCE

*securing the FUTURE for International Education:
Managing growth and Diversity*



Associate Degrees and the VET Sector

Issues and Challenges

The Associate Degree and the AQF

| Schools Sector | Vocational Education and Training Sector | Higher Education Sector |
|---|---|--|
| Senior Secondary Certificate of Education | Advanced Diploma Diploma Certificate IV Certificate III Certificate II Certificate I | Doctoral Degree Master Degree Graduate Diploma Graduate Certificate Bachelor Degree Associate Degree, Advanced Diploma Diploma |

Features of the Associate Degree (1)

- The **outcomes** include emphasis on the foundational, research-based knowledge of an academic discipline, broadly based in conceptual and theoretical content, often multi-disciplinary, and generic employment-related skills as appropriate to the discipline(s)
- **Expanded learning pathways** oriented to the newer evolving knowledge-based occupations, and programs responsive to the diverse international market and the globalisation of knowledge
- **Exit point at the sub-degree level**, or a **fully articulated pathway** into the Bachelor Degree or articulation into an Advanced Diploma for specialist industry competencies

Features of the Associate Degree (2)

- **Articulates** with full credit into Bachelor Degree in the same field, and may also articulate with an Advanced Diploma for applied skills development
- Students **eligible** to undertake an Associate Degree must meet the same requirements as for the Bachelor Degree
- Associate Degrees may be **offered** by:
 - Universities and other self-accrediting institutions.
 - Non self-accrediting higher education providers, including TAFEs and private RTOs which become approved higher education providers for the purposes of this award

Associate degrees in 2001(1)

Higher Education Student Enrolment – 2001

| | Non-Overseas | Overseas | Total |
|----------------------|--------------|----------|---------|
| Associate Degree | 2,074 | 50 | 2,124 |
| Advanced Diploma | 2,788 | 125 | 2,913 |
| Diploma | 6,579 | 22 | 6,601 |
| TOTAL – All programs | 614,076 | 112,342 | 726,418 |

Source: DEST Higher Education Student Statistics, 2001

Note: Figures do not include higher education private providers. No associate degree programmes are offered by private providers at this time.

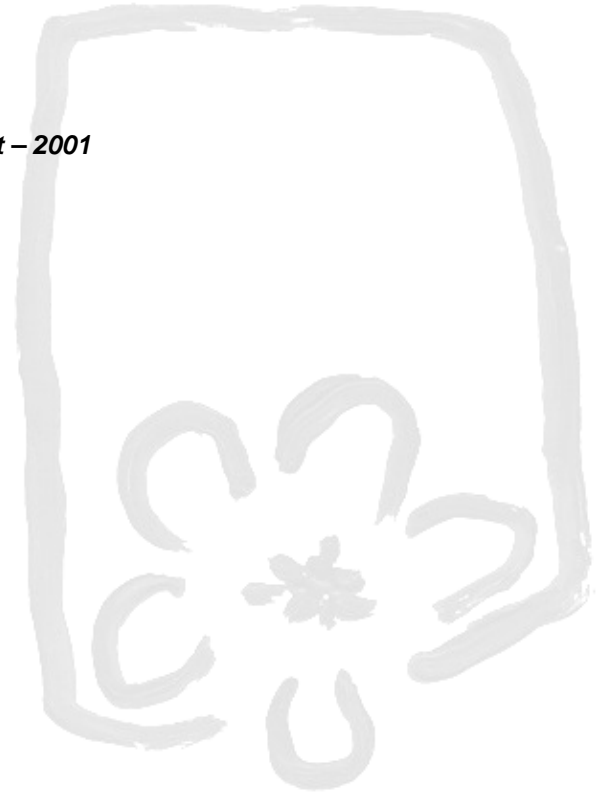
Associate degrees in 2001(2)

Vocational Education and Training Student Enrolment – 2001

| | Total |
|-----------------------------|------------------|
| Associate Degree | - |
| Advanced Diploma | 51,300 |
| Diploma | 173,500 |
| TOTAL – All programs | 2,119,200 |

Source: NCVET, 2001

Note: Breakdown into non-overseas and overseas not available.



Challenges (1)

- Developing clear outcomes between academic or higher education courses of study and those of Vocational Education and Training, that complement each of the sectors strengths and do not duplicate resources and outcomes
- Developing collaborative pathways between the higher education sector and VET Registered Training Organisations, between the public and private sector
- Monitoring the impact of the Associate Degree upon dual sector awards

Challenges (2)

- Strengthening credit transfer arrangements between the two sectors
- Meeting the demands of the international education market
- Meeting the demand for the approval of VET Registered Training Organisations as non-self accrediting providers of higher educations
- Developing international recognition of the associate degree

Thank you!

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