

## Submission No 80

Mark T Jones

To whom it may concern,

Australia's enlightened and forward thinking approach to education is not only important to the people of Australia, but to many overseas students who choose to study for Australian qualifications or have the privilege of studying in Australia itself. Many other countries look towards the Australian system for fresh ideas. As one who admires the good work being done across a variety areas, I humbly submit a few ideas for consideration by the Higher Education Standards Panel (HESP).

- **Lexicon and Iconography** – In education, as in life in general the young often find that they are inhibited by the current/prevaling lexicon. Words can restrict or liberate. When speaking of leadership sadly the focus tends to be on power, rather than service. People write about 'seeking power' or 'walking the corridors of power', how much more accurate it would be if web wrote about 'the corridors of responsibility' or indeed 'the corridors of accountability'. By taking a more subtle and nuanced approach to the usage of language we can begin to change perceptions and attitudes. Equally, the same is true of the iconography used in text books, websites, publicity material etc. Are we relying on tired stereotypes? How inclusive are the images being used? Do the currency symbols used in maths or economics lessons always have to be the dollar sign or could it occasionally be some of those from outside the Anglosphere?
- **Discernment** – Our young people are now able to access an unprecedented array of information. The Internet and all that has followed in its wake is both exciting and daunting. To date educators and policy makers have neglected discernment, this is an issue of paramount importance, not only for education, but for life.
- **Autodidacticism** – If learning is for life it is imperative that we encourage citizens of all ages to seek to learn for themselves. Hobbies and interests can help fire up self-study. Australia and the world needs independent learners, citizens who recognise the intrinsic worth of finding out for one's self.
- **Foresight** – We live in a world that appears obsessed with the here and now. A meaningful education should take the long view, not only of the past, but with regards to the future. In so doing citizens are more likely to view the environment with greater understanding, and view financial literacy with greater respect. Foresight and foresight planning does not just happen, the world of education can help inculcate a less short-term approach, something which in the long term will prove beneficial for all.
- **Well-being** – With changing norms and the societal disconnect caused by new technology there is a growing body of evidence to show that many young people are manifesting increased signs of stress and depression. Examinations and certificates are all very well, but if we end up producing unhappy individuals society at large will pay a heavy price. Internationally there is growing recognition that policy makers need to explore ways to improve well-being and thus help restore a degree of equilibrium that helps people fulfil their potential.

Education at all levels is under pressure and we must be alive to the lessons that are there to learn from other countries. As Managing Editor of the *International Journal of Higher Education*

*Management* ([www.ijhem.abrnr.com](http://www.ijhem.abrnr.com)) I am acutely aware that there are some interesting development both inside and outside the Anglosphere.

I wish HESP well with its endeavours, and trust that my thoughts are of some use to its deliberations.

Yours sincerely,

**Mark T Jones**  
**Director**  
**Centre for Innovative Leadership Navigation (CILN)**