

ACDICT President's Report 2012–13

This has been ACDICT's busiest year to date. There has been growing visibility of the Council, which has resulted in more invitations to committees, working parties, consultations, events, and the provision of information in general.

The following items give a brief summary of activities.

ACDICT Action Plan Paper regarding ICT skills

The ACDICT Executive has developed an action plan on ICT skills to be launched at the ACM.

Government meetings

1. Science meets Parliament: ACDICT represented by Iwona Miliszewska and Philip Ogunbona, September 2012
2. Senator Chris Evans re ICT Skills Forum, November 2012
3. Ian Chubb, Australian Chief Scientist re ICT as integral part of STEM: November 2012
4. Standard Australia's JTC 1 Strategic Advisory Committee, February 2013
5. Roslyn Prinsley, National Adviser, Science and Mathematics Education and Industry re ICT and STEM, February, 2013
6. OLT Maths and Science Teachers Program, April 2013
7. Ian Chubb, National Science and Technology Strategy, May 2013
8. Michael Hudson, Director Innovation and Technology Capabilities, Victoria, re ICT skills, May 2013

Consultation meetings

1. AWP, ICT Workforce Roundtable, Sydney, February 2013
2. ACARA, Draft Australian Curriculum: Digital Technologies, Sydney, May 2013

Submissions since last ACM (2012)

1. ACARA on the Draft Shape of the Australian Curriculum: Maths and Science, July 2012
2. ACARA on the Draft Australian Curriculum: Technologies Foundation to Year 10, May 2013
3. AWP on the future focus on Australia's skills and workforce development needs, August 2012
4. AWP, response to ICT Workforce Issues Paper, February 2013
5. AWP, feedback on Recommendations and Overview of the ICT Workforce Study, May 2013
6. AWP, feedback on finalising ICT Workforce Study, June 2013

Councils of Deans Summit

ACDICT had the leadership role for the Annual Councils of Deans meeting, Canberra, March 2013

BHERT ICT Roundtable

Joint between ACDICT and Swinburne
Accelerating Our Economic Performance through Innovative Thinking, Smart Solutions and Leading-edge Skills, Swinburne, March 2013

Letters

1. CORE, ACPHIS, ASWEC re joint annual conference, October 2012
2. Ian Chubb re policy alignment, November 2012
3. Julia Gillard, PM, re ICT skills shortage and improving domestic capacity and capability, March 2013
4. Chris Bowen, Minister for Tertiary Education, Skills, Science and Research, re improving ICT teaching standards in schools, March 2013
5. Alan Finkel, President Australian Academy of Sciences and Engineering re the establishment of an ICT Award along with other science disciplines, March 2013
6. Craig Emerson, Minister for Tertiary Education, Skills, Science and Research, re improving ICT teaching standards in schools, April 2013
7. Robert Randall, CEO ACARA re Draft Australian Curriculum: Technologies Foundation to Year 10, May 2013
8. Suzanne Cory, Head Australian Academy of Science, re Excellence Award for Australian ICT

Overseas liaison

Discussions were held between the e-Skills Institute of South Africa and the ACDICT President.

Forthcoming Events

1. Government invitation (Hon Sharon Bird MP, Minister for Higher Education and Skills) to Leon Sterling to join ICT Industry Working Group, first meeting July 2013
2. Informatics Olympiad <http://www.swinburne.edu.au/ict/events/queensland-outreach-day-informatics/> Leon Sterling, Chair of the Australian Informatics Olympiad Committee, Friday July 12, UQ CHUBB'S PRESS RELEASE SUPPORTING ACDICT
3. National Learning Standards Forum, Melbourne, invitation to Leon Sterling, 9 August 2013

ACDICT Learning and Teaching Academy (ALTA) Grants

Consortium grants to maximise cross-institutional and cross-disciplinary collaboration for projects that can benefit the ICT sector as a whole

Grants awarded 2013–14

Three L&T Grants @ \$15k each

1. *A database for storing and retrieving classified and benchmarked exam questions for ICT courses* Project Leader: Margaret Hamilton (RMIT), with Daryl D'Souza, James Harland, Raymond Lister, Alireza Ahadi, Donna Teague (3 institutions)
2. *Cultivating ICT student's interpersonal soft skills in online teaching environments using traditional active learning techniques* Project Leader: Trina Myers (JCU), with Jarrod Trevathan, Anna Blackman, Heather Gray, Ickjai Lee (2 institutions)
3. *Assessing the work readiness skills of ICT graduates* Project Leader: Brian von Kinsky (Curtin), with Charlynn Miller, Asheley Jones (3 institutions)

One Engagement Grant @ \$10k

1. *Activities using Both-Ways thinking to communicate foundations and frontiers of ICT to Indigenous children* Project Leader: Frances Rosamond (CDU), with Vladimir Estivill-Castro, Peter Shaw (2 institutions)

NB, In all, collaboration involves 10 institutions.

Grant reports from projects 2012–13

Three L&T Grants @ \$15k each

1. Shaping ICT Professionals, Anne Venables, VU, with Ballarat, ACS and Ericsson
2. Motivating students for research, Cally Guerin, Adelaide, with UniSA and Flinders
3. Effective e-learning for students and teachers, Nick Falkner, Adelaide, with QUT, Newcastle, UniSA, Swinburne, and Murdoch

Two Engagement Grants @ \$10k

1. Outreach and role-modelling, Catherine Lang, Swinburne, with Deakin
2. Games design and development in highschoools, Peter Vamplew, Ballarat, with UTAS

NB, that's collaboration involving in all: 11 universities, ACS and an industry partner. Reports on the ACDICT website (<http://acdikt.edu.au/ALTA.htm>)

ALTA Forum

This was hosted by VU 4–5 April and attended by 39 delegates from 24 Australian universities

Presentations and outcomes are given on the ACDICT website (<http://acdikt.edu.au/Events.htm>) along with the compiled evaluations. This fourth Forum was judged as the best yet.

Doctoral Consortium

Doctoral Consortium on ICT Education was supported by ACDICT at ACE 2013 at the University of South Australia.

Conventicles

ACDICT provided support to 5 Conventicles held in Melbourne, Sydney, Adelaide, Brisbane and Perth.

ALTA Fellows

Using funding received from the ALTC and the OLT for the Engineering and ICT Network (along with \$10k per annum from ACDICT), 4 ALTA Fellows have been appointed from end 2011 to end 2013 to further the mission of improving L&T in ICT. Various programs have been implemented, and they are also involved in the ALTA grants awarded.

The ALTA Fellows are also members of the ALTA Executive

Academic Resource Network for Engineering and ICT Australia

(ARNEIA): <http://arneia.edu.au/>

Funded by the ALTC and OLT for the Engineering and ICT Network (and partly by ACDICT), ARNEIA is a website developed to support educators and enhance learning and teaching in Engineering and ICT by providing convenient access to:

- A directory of contacts with discipline-based learning and teaching champions
- Resources created by academics
- Academic projects that are in progress or have been completed
- Funding opportunities from various organisations
- News of recent significant developments
- A calendar of learning and teaching events
- Exemplars of teaching practices

Executive meetings

There were four ACDICT Ordinary Executive meetings (as required by the Constitution) that were linked to other events wherever possible:

1. VU, 28 September 2012, coinciding with ACPHIS annual meeting
2. Swinburne, 30 November 2012
3. UniSA, 30 January 2013, during ACSW
4. VU, 5 April 2013 following the ALTA Forum

The ALTA Executive, chaired by the ACDICT Deputy President, Iwona Miliszewska, (other members: ALTA Fellows, Angela Carbone, Tony Koppi) met twice in person and included discussions on the alignment of ALTA with the ACDICT Action Plan.

Progress with *ACDICT Incorporated*

Although ACDICT is able to receive funding provided that it is partnered with a university that would handle the finances, for ACDICT to directly receive government funding, converting ACDICT to *ACDICT Incorporated* would facilitate this. The Executive is examining further possibilities after finding that the NSW Office of Fair Trading requires considerable Constitution revisions particularly concerned with legal liability.

Proposed Activities and Budget for 2013–14

Total budget and rationale

ALTA budget

Research budget

Leon Sterling

June 2013