

ACDICT President's Report 2013–14

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, and consultations.

Press release uptake of ICT skills and ACDICT Action, July 2013

1. Australian Higher Ed 25 July: <http://www.theaustralian.com.au/higher-education/plan-to-save-it-from-geekville/story-e6frgcjx-1226685053528>
2. Computerworld 25 July: http://www.computerworld.com.au/article/521937/reversing_ict_skills_slide_requires_industry_support_acdict/?utm_medium=newsletter&eid=-6787&utm_source=computerworld-today-pm-edition

Other Press articles

1. Out-dated perceptions of the ICT industry
<http://www.news.com.au/technology/fear-of-the-computer-nerd-is-leaving-gaping-hole-in-australia8217s-36-billion-it-industry/story-e6frfro0-1226738837726> October 2013
2. ICT courses and enrolments <http://www.smh.com.au/it-pro/expertise/why-would-you-pay-higher-uni-fees-when-moocs-abound-20140523-zrm01.html> May 2014
3. ICT teaching deficit – 3 articles
<http://acdict.edu.au/documents/LeonSterlingArticleICTskillsAFR16June2014.pdf> and
http://www.cio.com.au/article/547622/why_technology_education_cutting_it/?fp=16&fpid=1 and <http://acdict.edu.au/documents/SupportingTeachersArticle.pdf>
June 2014

Letters

1. Robin Shreeve, CEO AWPAA, re progressing the AWPAA recommendations for ACDICT concerning the ICT skills shortage, August 2013
2. Ian Chubb (Chief Scientist) and Roslyn Prinsley (Advisor to Chief Scientist) re National STEM Strategy, August 2013
3. Kim Carr – waiting for AWPAA response – now wait until after election re letters to ministers
4. Innes Willox, Chief Executive, AIG re ICT Skills shortage and ACDICT Action Plan, August 1213.
5. Alan Patterson, CEO ACS re ICT Skills shortage and ACDICT Action Plan, August 1213.
6. John Ridge, Executive Director ACSF re ICT Skills shortage and ACDICT Action Plan, August 1213.
7. Suzanne Campbell. CEO AIIA re ICT Skills shortage and ACDICT Action Plan, August 1213.
8. All Australian VCs re ACDICT activities and Action Plan, August 2013
9. CORE, ACPHIS, AAIS re Action Plan and possible collaboration, August 2013
10. Malcolm Turnbull re ACDICT Action Plan and ACDICT services, September 2013
11. Ian Macfarlane re ACDICT Action Plan and ACDICT services, September 2013
12. Chris Pyne re ACDICT Action Plan and ACDICT services, September 2013. A positive reply was received January 2014
13. Government re ARC independence – joint statement with Deans of Sciences, and Deans of Arts, Social Sciences and Humanities, October 2013.
14. Gordon Rich-Phillips, Assistant Treasurer and Minister for Technology, Victorian Government in support of NICTA

15. Letters re ICT skills sent to NSW and Qld State Education Ministers (MB and MP). Positive replies were received, May 2014
16. Letter to Stephen Durkin, CEO EA re invitation for an MoU between EA and ACDICT, December 2013
17. Robin Shreeve, CEO AWPAA, re the SOL and ICT shortage and keeping ACDICT informed of industry demands, January 2014
18. Submission to National Committee for Mathematical Science re the Mathematical Sciences Decadal Plan and ICT, May 2014
19. Department of Immigration and Border Protection, Letter from President re Independent Review of Integrity in the 457 Programme, May 2014

Government meetings

1. ICT Industry Working Group, Hon Sharon Bird MP Minister for HE and Skills. Late July 2013 [not happened by 13 Aug and not heard when]
2. President participation in the Victorian Government ICT Skills Subcommittee from July 2013
3. Ian Chubb, STEM Strategy Advisory Group, 3 September 2013
4. Robin Shreeve, AWPAA, re implementing AWPAA recommendations to address ICT skill shortage, 29 October 2013
5. Department of Industry, Innovation, Climate Change, Science, Research and Tertiary Education (DIICCSRTE) re ICT skills and industry liaison, consultation with ACDICT Executive (Maurice Pagnucco and EO), July 25 2013
6. Science meets Parliament attended by Michael Blumenstein and Paul Strooper representing ACDICT. The benefits to ACDICT include greater visibility at a high level and being better informed of parliamentary processes and policies.
7. NSW Shadow Minister for Education, Maurice Pagnucco, 6 August 2014

Government submissions

1. Demand Driven System Review; ACDICT submission recommending ICT as a priority discipline and the provision of incentives for study, December 2013
2. ERA submission re the 2015 Submission Documentation, including suggestions for changes to the ICT Discipline Matrix, February 2013, and further comments May 2014
3. Victorian Government Workforce Development Plan re ICT priorities, February 2013
4. ACDICT submission to the Teacher Education Ministerial Advisory Group Consultation, June 2014

Consultation meetings

1. President met with Tim Cahill and ERA, August 2013
2. EO and Maurice Pagnucco at ACARA, Draft Australian Curriculum: Digital Technologies, Sydney, August 2013
3. Workshop: Group X National, ACDICT, ACARA and other stakeholders, USC, 2 October 2013
4. EO at ACARA all-day workshop on implementing the ICT Digital Technologies Curriculum, 9 December 2013
5. EO participated in further ACARA consultations re Digital Technologies: August 2013; Dec 2013; Feb 2014, April 2014, May 2014, June 2014
6. President and EO consulted with Mills Oakley Lawyers re ACDICT becoming incorporated – concluded that current practice was satisfactory

7. President with ACS Victorian Branch Executive Committee regarding the University perspective, 8 Feb, 2014
8. President with ERA re ICT and ERA 2015 Draft Submission, Feb/March 2014
9. President invited to join ACS Technical Council, March 2014
10. EO consulted with Education Services Australia (ESA) re ICT Academic Mentors May 2014
11. President requested to meet with panel for the Independent Review of Integrity in the 457 Programme, Department of Immigration and Border Protection, 23 May 2014
12. Further ACDICT submission provided to the Independent Review of Integrity in the 457 Programme, Department of Immigration and Border Protection, June 2014

Industry liaison

1. AIG – ACDICT President on Working Party for Digital Business Kit, September 2013 onwards
2. VicRoads: President's ACDICT role in advising for professional development of staff

Group X National – now Digital Careers

1. ACDICT President on National Board as of August 2013
2. Tony Koppi, one day per week in addition to ACDICT EO role, with special focus on ICT capabilities in primary and secondary schools
3. Maurice Pagnucco Chair of NSW Digital Careers Advisory Board

Science and Technology Australia

EO represented ACDICT at the STA Members Skills Workshop November 2013

Councils Liaison

1. EO working with ACED and ACDS to prepare for the Councils Summit following the Annual Universities Australia Education Conference (Feb 2014)
2. EO represented ACDICT and Group X in liaising and meeting with the Australian Council of Deans of Education (ACDE) concerned with primary and high school teacher ICT capabilities

ACDICT Professional Association status consultation

President and EO met with Vera Visevic of Mills Oakley Lawyers to consult on the most appropriate Profession Status for ACDICT, 5 December 2013

Overseas liaison

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

Plans and Policies

1. Development of the Engagement Plan for Council approval
2. Review of the ICT Skills Action Plan since Council adoption in July 2013; Version 2 approved by the Executive, June 2014

ALTA Report

ALTA Forum

This fifth Forum was hosted by UTS 8–9 May and attended by 42 delegates from 24 Australian universities with excellent evaluation results
Presentations and outcomes are given on the ACDICT website (<http://acdikt.edu.au/Events.htm>) along with the compiled evaluations.

Conventicles

ACDICT provided support to 5 Conventicles concerned with learning and teaching in ICT held in Melbourne, Sydney, Adelaide, Brisbane and Perth.

ACDICT Learning and Teaching Academy (ALTA) Commissioned Reports for 2013–2014

1. Project Leader: Jo Coldwell-Neilson (Deakin) with Jenine Beekhuyzen (Griffith) for the topic concerned with recruitment and retention of female ICT students
Exploring the contexts of ICT degrees with high female participation
Interim Report:
<http://acdikt.edu.au/documents/JoColdwellNeilsonWomenInICT.pdf>
2. Project Leader: Judy Sheard (Monash) with Michael Morgan (Monash) and Matthew Butler (Monash) concerned with the experiences of first year students in ICT courses
Experiences of first year students in ICT courses: best practices in teaching introductory programming in ICT courses
Final Report:
<http://acdikt.edu.au/documents/JudySheardFirstYearStudentsICTcoursesFinal.pdf>

Reports from Grants awarded 2013–14

Three L&T Grants

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)
Final Report:
<http://acdikt.edu.au/documents/HamiltonDatabaseOfBenchmarkedICTExamQs.pdf>
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)
Final Report: <http://acdikt.edu.au/documents/TrinaFinalReport.pdf>
3. *Assessing the work readiness skills of ICT graduates* Project Leader: Brian von Konsky (Curtin), with Charlynn Miller, Asheley Jones (3 institutions)
Final Report: <http://acdikt.edu.au/documents/vonKonskyFinalReport.pdf>

One Engagement Grant

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)
Final Report:
<http://acdikt.edu.au/documents/RosamondICTforIndigenousChildren2014.pdf>

NB, For all grants combined 2013–14, collaboration involved 10 institutions.

Possible ALTA Activities for 2014–15

WIL

TLOs

Academic mentors – supporting school teachers

Academic Resource Network for Engineering and ICT Australia

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

ACDICT continues to support this website through curation by the ACDICT EO. It was originally 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. UQ, 6 September 2013
2. Swinburne, 11 November 2013, following Informatics day for high school teachers
3. Canberra, 28 February 2014, following UA Conference [??]
4. UTS, 9 May 2014 following the ALTA Forum

??The ALTA Executive, chaired by the ACDICT Deputy President, Iwona Miliszewska, XXX

Proposed Activities and Budget for 2014–15

Total budget and rationale

ALTA budget

Research budget

Leon Sterling
June 2014