

NSW/ACT Committee of Chairs of Academic Boards and Senates

“HSC All my own work: A program in ethical scholarship for HSC students”

<http://amow.boardofstudies.nsw.edu.au/>

Report by: Professor Anne Cusick
Chair,
Academic Senate, University of Western Sydney

The Board of Studies NSW convened a steering committee to oversight the development of the “HSC: All my own work program”. The Committee met during 2006 and the program was ready for use in 2007.

The program emerged out of the range of “Respect and Responsibility” initiatives announced by the NSW Premier in February 2006. The program provides compulsory training in conventions of scholarship, understanding of academic honesty, and use of ideas and other people’s work by students who are sitting the HSC.

The program is comprised of a series of on-line modules which can be completed by students in a self-directed manner, or can be facilitated by teachers, or can be incorporated into school curricula. The modules can also be printed and completed in hard-copy if required. All students who sit the HSC from 2008 need to have completed the program or equivalent. Every student sitting the HSC needs to be certified as having completed the program. This certification will be done by the School principal.

Students are expected to complete the program as a mandatory activity during year 10 although some schools may use it in year 11.

The Steering Committee comprised membership from a variety of stakeholders: Independent and Public School Principals, school Librarians, a student representative, and professional association representatives. The NSW/ACT Committee of Chairs was represented by nominee Professor Anne Cusick.

The Steering committee meetings were focussed and productive. The particular contributions made by the NSW/ACT Committee of Chairs representative included:

- Feedback and editorial suggestions regarding module wording particularly in relation to the modules “scholarship principles and practices”, “plagiarism” and extensive commentary on the “working with others” module;
- Feedback regarding the use of links and naming of particular universities in module materials; the steering committee agreed to delete reference to particular universities and university links as it added little to the resource base, but suggested a Board link or relationship to particular universities and not others;
- Commenting on issues relating to access, diversity and equity;
- Discussing the various aspects of fair hearing, due process and scholarship assistance that relate to academic misconduct policies at many universities and how this context might be helpful when considering module examples, certification and reporting processes to be used by the Board.

The All my own work program was formally announced in the “Board Bulletin” Vol 15 (5) September 2006 and launched in November 2006. It is now in use.

Universities can expect that all school leavers from 2008 HSC will have completed the program. The program is available for viewing on the Board of Studies NSW web-site. It is copyright. See <http://amow.boardofstudies.nsw.edu.au/>

The NSW/ACT Committee of Chairs was thanked by the Steering Committee Chair for the consistent and high quality contribution to the module development through Steering Committee participation.