

QA Systems

**National
Experiences**

**AMEA 2007
Bangkok,
Thailand**

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Australian Universities Quality Agency

Briefing Outline

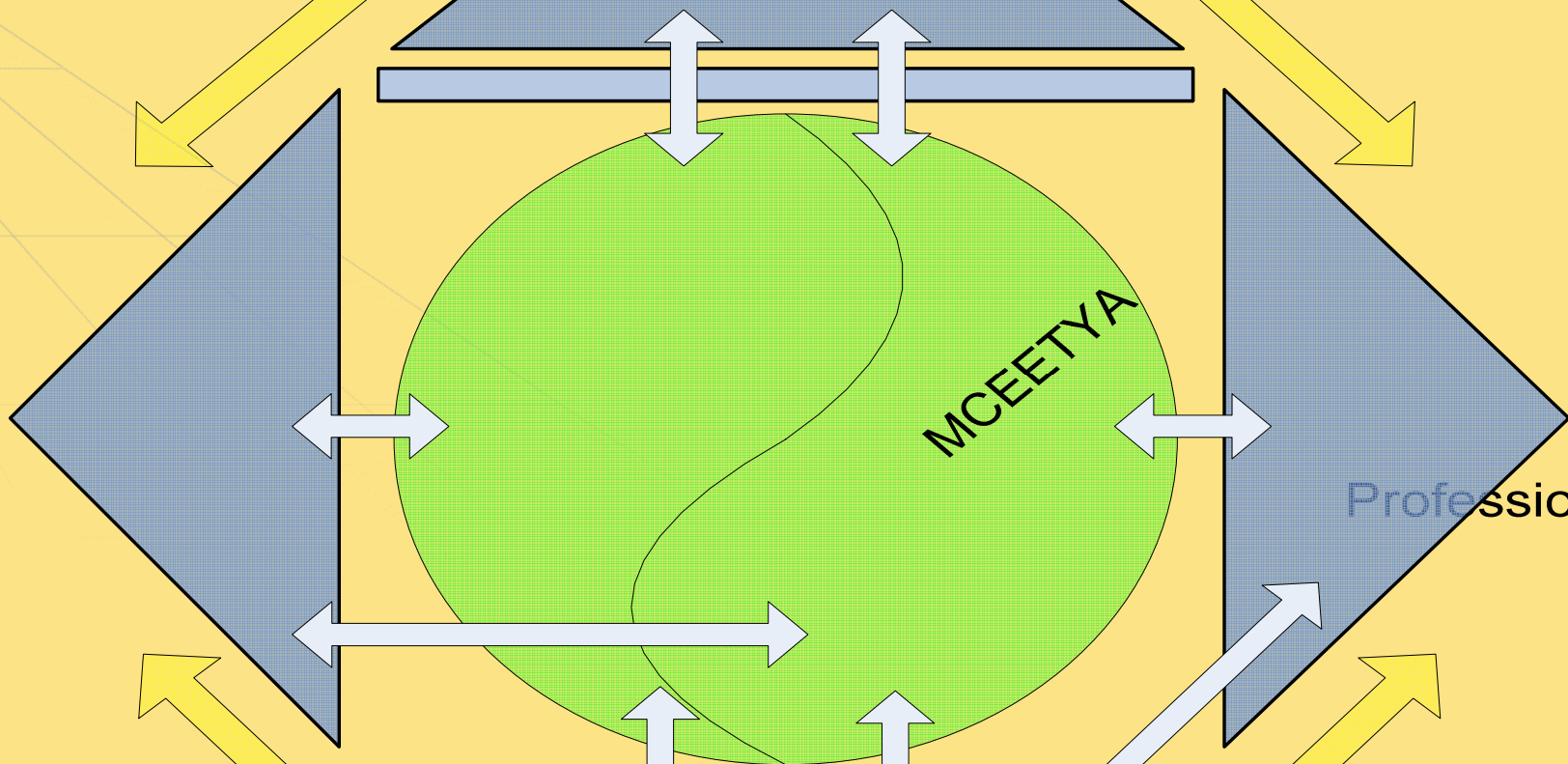
1. Overview of the Australian Higher Education Quality System
2. AUQA Quality Audit
3. Main Audit Stages
4. Concluding remarks



1. Overview of the Australian Higher Education Quality System



The Australian Higher Education Quality System



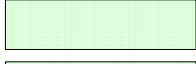
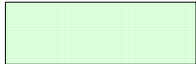
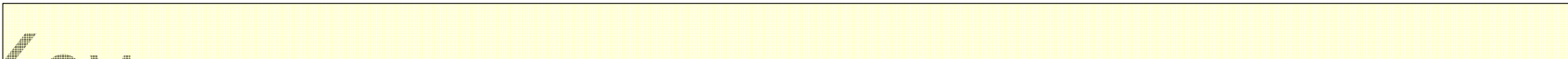
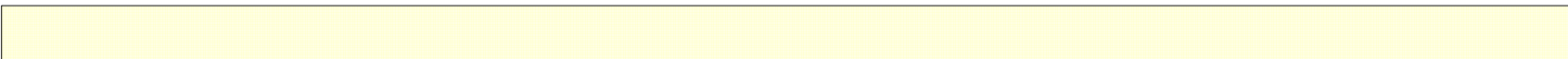
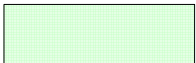
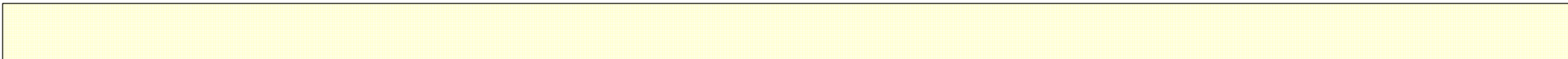
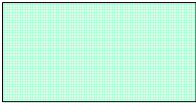
Department of Science and Education

Professional

Australian Qualifications Framework

Universities and other Self Accrediting Institutions

The Australian Higher Education Quality System



Key

ACPET

Australian Council for Private Education & Training: Represent

AQF

Australian Qualifications Framework: A national register of a

AUQA

Australian Universities Quality Agency: Audits the HEIs and

External QA Activities

- DEST reporting
- National Academic Quality Audit
- Professional accreditation



2. AUQA QUALITY AUDIT



AUQA Mission

AUQA is the principal national quality assurance agency in higher education with the responsibility of providing public assurance of the quality of Australia's universities and other institutions of higher education, and assisting in enhancing the academic quality of these institutions.



Fitness for Purpose Quality Audit

A systematic, independent determination whether:

- An organisation's planned arrangements are suitable to achieve its goals (i.e. check the overall **approach**).
- Actual practice conforms to the planned arrangements (i.e. the **deployment**).
- The arrangements achieve the desired **results**.
- The organisation is learning and **improving** from its self-evaluation of its approach, deployment and results.



Audit Scope

- AUQA is interested in all academic activities carried out in the auditee's name.
- AUQA gives some recognition to other forms of external certification when developing its sample and method (re: breadth and depth).
- AUQA does not normally audit non-academic matters unless they are shown to affect academic activities in a manner that warrants attention.



Audit Scope (cont.)

Indicative scope includes:

1. Organisational Leadership, Planning etc.
2. Teaching & Learning (all modes), Courses etc.
3. Research, Consultancies, Community Service, and relations with stakeholders
4. Overseas operations
5. Internationalisation
6. Staff and Staff Support
7. Student Support
8. Academic Support
9. Admin Support, Facilities, Resources etc.



4. Main Audit Stages



Main Audit Stages

1. Self-evaluation
2. Portfolio: summarising self-evaluation
3. Consultation on Panel Membership
4. Portfolio Meeting
5. Provisions of supporting documentation
6. Preparatory Visit: preparing for the Audit Visit
7. Audit Visit(s): to verify Portfolio and fill gaps
8. Draft Audit Report
9. Final Audit Report
10. Follow-up Progress Report (+ 1½ to 2 yrs)



Audit Report

1. Commendation: An achievement that is particularly significant
2. Recommendation: An area in need of attention and where there is evidence that the auditee has recognised the need
3. Affirmation: An area in need of attention

5. Concluding Remarks



Main Characteristics

1. Several levels of Quality Assurance
2. The national QA system is a reflection of the universities' self-accrediting status
3. Audit recognises other quality assurance processes, such as professional accreditation
4. Medical professional accreditation is criteria-based. AUQA Audit is based on a fitness-for-purpose approach
5. AUQA audit has an improvement focus and provides accountability of the institutional quality
6. Public audit reports





**Thank you for your
attention
www.auqa.edu.au**

