

## Charles Sturt University's Cycle 2 AUQA Audit

### Briefing Notes for Students

*The following notes are to assist students in their interview with the Australian Universities Quality Agency (AUQA) Audit of Charles Sturt University (CSU).*

#### Who is AUQA?

- Australian Universities Quality Agency (AUQA)
- AUQA is an independent, not-for-profit national agency that promotes, audit and reporting on quality assurance in Australian Higher Education.
- 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.

#### Background to the Current Audit

- AUQA audited CSU in 2004 as part of its Cycle 1 audits of all universities. This is in some respects the 'starting point' for the current audit, Cycle 2.
  - The current audit will:
    - Follow-up Recommendations and Affirmations from Cycle 1, including a review of major changes to quality related processes;
    - Consider the extent to which CSU is achieving its stated goals, with particular reference to academic standards and outcomes; and
    - Focus on two themes.
      - ***Internationalisation*** and ***Professional Education and Practice Based Learning***.
- [The scope for each theme is available at should you wish to view these:  
[http://www.csu.edu.au/division/plandev/students\\_only/quality\\_assurance/themes.htm](http://www.csu.edu.au/division/plandev/students_only/quality_assurance/themes.htm)]

## The Audit Process

- An Audit Panel will make determinations on the points above through reference to and cross reference between:
  - The University's own self assessment, i.e. CSU's Cycle 2 Performance Portfolio;
  - Additional information collected, i.e. information on CSU's website, publications, internal policies, procedures, visits to campuses and partners etc; and
  - Interviews with students, staff and other stakeholders.
- CSU's Cycle 2 Performance Portfolio and associated material provided to the Audit Panel is available at:  
[http://www.csu.edu.au/division/plandev/students\\_only/quality\\_assurance/supplementary/](http://www.csu.edu.au/division/plandev/students_only/quality_assurance/supplementary/).

## Student (Your) Involvement

- Members of the Audit Panel (usually one panel member with a group of 6-10 students) will ask students about their experiences at CSU, potentially covering all aspects of their academic work, academic and other support, the availability of services (e.g. library, learning support etc), accommodation, campus life etc.
- Given the two themes (outlined above) you might prepare for the interview by thinking about your:
  - Involvement with and experiences in practicums or clinical placements, e.g. support provided by the University, their place and value in your course, the extent you feel they prepare you for later work etc; and
  - Experiences and encounters with 'internationalisation', including participation in international exchange if appropriate, international aspects to your course, interactions with international students etc.

## Message to Interviewees

- All comments made to the Audit Panel are treated in strict confidence, and will not be attributed to individuals.
- Expect to be asked about any aspect of your experiences with the University.
- Be aware that the Panel may not interact as one would expect in a normal social setting – they may follow a particular line of enquiry to the exclusion of what you may think is important and may not acknowledge comments or provide feedback (positive or negative) in the 'usual' manner.

- Notwithstanding the previous point, be prepared to engage with the panel by 'telling your story'.

## **Tips for Interviewees**

### **DO**

- ✓ Be honest, factual and succinct
- ✓ Be prepared to engage with the Panel
- ✓ Be aware of others in your group
- ✓ Be on time for the interview

## **Resources for Interviewees**

- Additional information on CSU's Cycle 2 AUQA Audit is available at:  
[http://www.csu.edu.au/division/plandev/students\\_only/quality\\_assurance/auqa\\_audit/2009/index.htm](http://www.csu.edu.au/division/plandev/students_only/quality_assurance/auqa_audit/2009/index.htm)