

Standards project creates Australian first bringing law leaders together



Assistant and Associate Deans in law from across Australia attended the LTAS project national law forum in Melbourne in the first week of June

In an Australian first, the ALTC's Discipline Scholars in Law brought together associate and assistant law deans with responsibility for learning and teaching from practically every university in the nation in Melbourne early this month.

Professors Sally Kift and Mark Israel (both pictured right) said this is the first time such a large group of associate and assistant deans in law have met at a national level. Participants are now working to establish a permanent network that continues to operate long after the Learning and Teaching Academic Standards (LTAS) project winds up.

Professor Kift noted that this group of senior academics will have significant responsibility for implementing and assuring graduates' attainment of Threshold Learning Outcomes (TLOs).

The associate and assistant deans

attended the national forum to review a full draft of the TLOs for the undergraduate law degree to ensure that they had been drafted according to agreed principles.

There is agreement that the TLOs need to be relevant, appropriately pitched, not too prescriptive or general, able to be implemented and assessed, take account of diversity of contexts in which law graduates are employed, and accurately articulate what academics and professionals agreed should be the minimum requirements for law graduates.

International expert, Clark Cunningham, W Lee Burge Professor of Law and Ethics at Georgia State University College of Law

addressed the forum in his capacity as a member of the LTAS Expert Advisory Group for Law.

Speaking from Atlanta, Georgia, Professor Cunningham argued that law degrees should ensure graduates can recognise, reflect on and resolve ethical issues.

Altogether almost 40 academics attended the Melbourne forum. As an aside, Professor Israel said that attendees considered the need for a collective noun of associate deans in law. "Discarding a manslaughter or pedantry of associate deans, the group settled on an outcome," he said.



Accounting group seeks feedback on TLOs

From late April to mid-June a working party has developed two drafts of the Threshold Learning Outcomes (TLOs) for

bachelor and coursework masters degrees in accounting.

Earlier this month the first draft was

reviewed by an advisory group containing key stakeholders including private and public

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