



APAC WELCOMES NEW CHAIR

I am Simon Crowe and I am the new chair of the Australian Psychology Accreditation Council (APAC). It is a great honour and privilege to chair the Council and to guide the delivery of programs of study in psychology in Australia with the clear aim of facilitating yet greater quality and integrity of these programs and in turn producing the highest quality graduates in psychology for the country.

It is often said that if we can *see a little further it is by standing on the shoulders of giants*. The powerful contribution of APAC over its many years of activity has occurred under the careful guidance of two giants, our two previous chairs, Professor Trevor Waring and Professor John Dunn. I would like to acknowledge the towering contribution of both of these eminent psychologists and their tireless efforts in leading APAC in improving the quality of psychology training in Australia.

Much activity has taken place at APAC over the last two years since our major governance review and I hope that you will note that the Council has now evolved into a much more professional, focused and effective entity. Credit for this goes of course to my fellow board members who have been tireless in their efforts to improve the way that the Council works as well as to the careful hand of Professor Dunn in chairing the Council and the tireless work of our new CEO, Jane Stephens, who has brought a raft of improvements in the way that the Council works as both an entity and in discharging our mission.

As the new Chair, I have a strong vision for the future of APAC, as well as a track record of corporate governance and leadership, and a broad knowledge of and experience in psychology education. I also have a sound knowledge of psychological service provision, financial management, workforce planning and in the strategic development of the profession. I was first appointed to the APAC Board more than 10 years ago, and although I have on occasion stepped off the Board due to conflict of interest issues, I have always closely monitored how the Board was faring and kept a close eye on its strategic directions and effectiveness.

As Chair I see my key roles as setting the tone for the Board, managing the business of the Board effectively, leading the corporate agenda, including its governance, financial viability and in achieving our corporate mission, maintaining good relationships with the CEO and in representing the Board externally. Ultimately however, APAC can only know if it achieves its mission if you as a graduate, educator or consumer of psychological services can see that the quality of the graduates that Australia produces are evermore competent, well trained and effective. The proof of our “pudding” is very much in the eating!!

Over the next weeks one of our major programs of work will be released for consultation in the form of our Draft Accreditation Standards. All of the Board, but particularly Prof Nancy Pachana and her Standards Working Group, have worked tirelessly in updating these

standards and in bringing the approach to accreditation into the 21st century. I hope that you will feel as I do, that they are a vast improvement on the past, but of course no progress occurs without your willingness to join us in our journey.

I look forward to being able to provide you with further updates regarding the Council as we move forward together over the next two years.

Best regards and good wishes,

Simon Crowe PhD Hon FAPS

Chair, APAC