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# Go8 External Academic Peer Review of Assessment: Quality Verification System

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# The Go8 Quality Verification System (QVS)

- External, discipline-led, academic peer review
    - Final-year undergraduate student outcomes
    - Graduate professional entry programs in review disciplines
  - Maintain and improve academic standards across Go8 institutions
  - Flexible/ Light Touch – complements of QA mechanisms
  - Quality verification – not grade moderation
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# The QVS experience at Adelaide

- The University has been involved with QVS since 2011
  - Focus is to assist in:
    - Maintaining and improving academic standards
    - Promoting discussion on best practice in learning & teaching
    - Establishing benchmarks to enable comparisons across like minded (Go8) institutions
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# Go8 QVS – How?

- Review of all materials associated with a course by a senior academic from another Go8 university
  - Materials reviewed include:
    - Course profiles (and other course materials provided to students, e.g. course guides)
    - Information on how course learning outcomes relate to the program level outcomes
    - Copies of de-identified assessment tasks (e.g. exam scripts, essays, written artefacts from work placements)
    - Marking criteria/rubric used for each assessment task
    - Randomly selected, de-identified sample of students' assessments at each grade levels
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# 2016 QVS

- 6 Discipline areas identified for review in 2016:
    - Environmental sciences
    - Archaeology
    - Biology
    - Education
    - Law – International law
    - Engineering – Civil
  - Potential for 96 reviews;
    - However some Go8 universities do not deliver in some disciplines under review
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# 2016 QVS

- While successful overall, there have been some challenges:
    - Gathering review materials & engagement with reviewers
    - Transfer of materials
    - Timing of review
    - Identification of specific discipline areas for review
    - Experience of staff undertaking reviews
    - Cost
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# 2017 QVS

Proposal for 10 disciplines for review in 2017

- Noting issues identified previously, these have been refined to 6 disciplines
  - Investigating the use of digital data transfer facility for 2017
    - Better management and oversight of process
    - Document security
    - Still requires 'human' management and oversight of disciplines and units
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# QVS outcomes

- Majority of Reviewers:
    - Fully endorse grades awarded
    - Assess that course materials and learning objectives are completely clear, sufficient and appropriate across units reviewed
    - Found course materials were comparable to similar courses in Australia and the UK
    - The QVS is an effective tool for monitoring and maintaining academic standards across the Go8
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Questions?