Conversations with Robin Middlehurst
The Rise of Private Tertiary Education Providers: Challenges and Opportunities

Professor Robin Middlehurst will lead discussions on the evolving political and economic context which has led to private tertiary education providers entering the market in record numbers, and the challenges and opportunities this poses for the sector, based on UK experiences.
Overview

Tertiary education in the United Kingdom is undergoing a profound period of change. Unlike Australia, the UK had experienced record levels of funding over the past decade and now British universities and colleges are facing a distinctly austere policy environment. Students are experiencing steep increases in tuition fees that are expected to impact the rules of the game. Private and for-profit higher education providers have entered the British market in force, further changing the dynamics in the sector. It will be clear that there are strong parallels between the emerging tertiary education environment in the UK and the one facing Australian institutions.

Professor Robin Middlehurst will discuss the evolving political and economic context in which these developments are taking place, the challenges and opportunities they pose to the UK’s university and college leaders, the regulatory reform needed because of the explosive growth of small private colleges and will detail strategic reactions developed in response to this. In doing so, she will draw on recently published work undertaken for Universities UK on the growth of private and for-profit higher education as well as her extensive professional experience with senior management in higher education in the UK.

This program is jointly developed by the British Council, the LH Martin Institute and IEAA.

Who should attend?

Designed for senior executives in higher education and VET institutions. Participants may include Deputy Vice-Chancellors, Pro Vice-Chancellors, Directors, Deans, as well as academic and senior professional managers responsible for strategy and planning.

Delivery mode

Half-day workshop, 9.30am – 1.00pm

Dates & locations

3 May 2011, Canberra
4 May 2011, Brisbane
6 May 2011, Sydney
10 May 2011, Melbourne

Program fee

$500 ($550 incl. GST)

Program content

Specific topics to be covered:
- The evolving political and economic context that has led to increased numbers of tertiary education providers entering the UK market
- Challenges and opportunities this poses to the tertiary sector
- Regulatory reform to address growth of private colleges.

Registration

To register for this program, please visit: www.lhmartininstitute.edu.au

Registration closing date: 27 April 2011 (unless filled earlier).
Robin Middlehurst is Professor of Higher Education at Kingston University and Director of Strategy, Research and International at the Leadership Foundation for Higher Education (LFHE). On behalf of the LFHE, she has commissioned a significant programme of research for the higher education sector on aspects of leadership, management and governance in higher education. She leads the development of the Foundation’s international strategy which supports the internationalisation agenda of the UK higher education sector and co-directs the successful Top Management Programme for Higher Education.

Robin’s personal areas of research, teaching and consultancy are concerned with the nature and impact of change in higher education policy and practice with a particular focus on: leadership and leadership development; governance and management; quality assurance and enhancement at national and international levels; and ‘borderless higher education’ and international HE strategy.

Prior to her positions at Kingston University and the LFHE, she worked at the Higher Education Quality Council (now QAA), as Assistant Director and Director of the Quality Enhancement Group from 1994-1998. Here she directed a major national research and development programme on academic standards in the UK. She returned to the University of Surrey as Director of the Centre for Continuing Education in 1998 where she was awarded a personal Chair in higher education.

In 2000, she led an important research project on Borderless Higher Education and on the basis of the report’s recommendations, Universities UK and the Association of Commonwealth Universities jointly established the Observatory on Borderless Higher Education, a global strategic information service for higher education institutions. Robin joined their Advisory Board in 2005.

Her recent publications include:

About the British Council

The British Council is a bridge between the UK and other countries. It is built on a foundation of valuing people, creativity, mutuality, integrity and professionalism.

It is the UK’s international organisation for educational opportunities and cultural relations. The British Council works in over 100 countries worldwide to build engagement and trust for the UK through the exchange of knowledge and ideas. It is a non-political organisation which operates at arm’s length from government.

Since 1947, the British Council has been working to build mutually beneficial and lasting relationships between the future leaders of Australia, the UK, its East Asian region, and the world. In Australia its initiatives cross the areas of arts and creative industries, education, science, innovation and climate change.

As part of a network of 12 countries in East Asia, the British Council is continuing to expand the international dimension of its projects and work strategically with partners from the UK and across the region.

www.britishcouncil.org.au

About the IEAA

The International Education Association of Australia (IEAA) is Australia’s leading international education professional organisation.

Its mission is to enhance the quality and standing of Australian international education by serving the professional needs and interests of its members and by promoting international education within Australia and internationally.

IEAA offers networking and professional development opportunities through industry focused workshops, seminars and symposia. It also has an active research program and public policy agenda. IEAA works in close collaboration with a wide range of industry stakeholders including other peak bodies, as well as with governments to enhance and strengthen Australian international education.

www.ieaa.org.au

About the LH Martin Institute

The LH Martin Institute for Higher Education Leadership and Management has been established with the support of the Commonwealth Government to enhance tertiary education in Australia and New Zealand, by providing a suite of programs and activities focused on institutional management and leadership, tailored to the particular needs of the sector. Specialising in postgraduate award programs, executive education, research and consultancy, the Institute provides a forum where tertiary sector institutions, public policy makers and experts can explore, assess and anticipate the changing national and international environment in which the tertiary education sector operates.

Further Information

The Institute, in response to the needs of the sector, is continually developing and delivering new programs, research and collaborative projects. To be kept informed, please visit the website and subscribe to the Institute’s monthly e-newsletter.

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