Annual General Meeting 2 October 2014

This report provides an overview of the key activities and achievements over the period July 2013 to October 2014. These have included, promoting WIL in Australia through enhanced advocacy, supporting WIL research and scholarship, strengthening links globally and ensuring ACEN remains a robust and sustainable organisation that is responsive to and serves its members.

The period has been characterised by

- Strategic engagement with peak industry bodies and Universities Australia in the development of a Statement of Intent
- Continued strong membership by 34 Australian universities with 1,312 registered members resulting in a strong financial position
- Active engagement with members through state chapter’s holding regular events and webinars
- Growth of International links and activities
- Consolidation of ACEN governance arrangements and practices
- Active and increased support for research and scholarship activities for WIL in Australia
- Continuing to support students undertaking WIL through the ACEN scholarship scheme

The following provides brief overviews of achievements in key areas.

Advocacy

Over this period ACEN has been very active in advocating for WIL in Australia. The key activity over the period has been the signing of a Statement of Intent in February with Universities Australia (UA), Business Council of Australia (BCA), Australian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ACCI), Australian Industry Group (AIG) and ACEN.

This Statement, Work Integrated learning: Strengthening University and Business Partnerships sets out a joint commitment to enhance WIL in a range of key areas nationally. The signatories have formed a working group and meet regularly; working towards the development of an action plan for presentation at the Universities Australia Conference in 2015. The ACEN Board assisted by Professor Ian Goulter determined key priorities to feed into the Strategy. ACEN has also been actively involved providing advice to two aligned national studies being implemented by the Office of the Chief Scientist and the Federal Department of Industry. Outcomes of these studies will be utilised in formulating the Action Plan.

Resulting from ACEN’s signatory of the Statement of Intent ACEN was asked to present at the Universities Australia conference, the WACE Board meeting, to Academic Board at Federation University and was contacted by the Canadian Government officials.

Governance

The review of ACEN governance was completed and the move from being registered as an incorporated association under Queensland law to a company limited by guarantee and registered with ASIC finalised.

The ACEN Board has continued to implement a range of initiatives flowing from the change of governance arrangements including:

- Training program for the ACEN Board on roles and responsibilities involved with Board membership
- Development and adoption of an ACEN Board Code of Conduct
• Restructuring of Board meeting structure to enhance efficiency
• Implementation of a subcommittee structure including:
  o Advocacy and Engagement
  o Communications and Membership
  o National Conference Planning Committee
  o Audit and Finance Committee
• Information sessions for State Chapter Committee members on governance arrangements and processes were held

WIL Research and Scholarship
ACEN continued to support scholarship and research into WIL in Australia. Achievements in the period include:
• The ACEN HERDSA WIL Guide has been completed; published and launched in July 2014. The Guide was edited by Sonia Ferns and provides a valuable resource to WIL professional and academic staff. ACEN and HERDSA have established an agreement to manage the production, sale and future development of the guide
• Support for a range of WIL related OLT applications and ongoing support for successful national OLT projects
• The ACEN Research Scholarship scheme for 2014 awarded two, $10,000 scholarships.
• Active involvement of ACEN Board members on the WACE International research committee.
• Support for the Asia Pacific Journal of Cooperative Education

National WIL Projects
ACEN supported three national WIL projects over this period with regular reports to both the ACEN Board and ACEN members.
• **Impact of WIL project:** This OLT funded project’s overarching aim is to provide an evidence base for judging the impact of WIL on graduates’ readiness to commence work. The report for this project is to be published shortly
• **WIL Leadership Project:** This OLT funded project is harnessed the expertise of experienced WIL leaders and establish how and where WIL leadership is situated and developing a WIL Leadership Framework for Australia. The report and resources for this project are on the ACEN website
• **“Building Institutional Capacity to enhance access, participation and progression in Work Integrated Learning”** with QUT as the lead organisation is still in progress and will contribute valuable insights and resources to support enhanced access to WIL for diverse student groups.

International Links
Increased engagement internationally has been achieved over this period including:
• ACEN organising and chairing meetings of national associations at the WACE conference in Sweden
• Attendance at the WACE Board in Sweden in June 2014
• Involvement in a working group to establish a Global WIL Course in conjunction with National Associations in New Zealand, Canada, South Africa and Sweden
• Establishing strong links and hosting delegations from universities in Thailand and Japan
• Participation in an International Training program run by TACE, the Thai association and meetings with the Thai Higher Education Commission, TACE and representatives from Japan
• Representation by National Associations through reciprocal complimentary registrations at ACEN Conferences

STATE CHAPTERS
The following reports outline the key activities of the ACEN State chapters during the period

ACEN Q
The ACEN QLD Chapter committee was entirely new in 2014 and, with just three committee members; it was not without its challenges. Thanks go especially to Karen Robinson (Griffith) who, as Secretary, carried much of the Chapter’s workload and to Annissa O’Shea (USQ) for her work throughout the year.
Of particular note was that on 16 April, the Chapter hosted a National OLT project symposium ‘What stops students accessing, participating and progressing in WIL? The aims of the half-day and free symposium were to identify gaps and some of the issues that inhibit effective student engagement in WIL and to showcase the National OLT project ‘Building institutional capacity to enhance access, participation and progression in WIL’. The symposium, which was held at Griffith University’s South Bank Campus, gave participants an opportunity to share expertise and openly discuss differing aspects of their experiences of successful participation in WIL. Some sixty participants registered for the event. Key speakers included Dr Alan McAlpine (Manager, Careers & Employment, QUT), who gave the keynote address “What is a Real World Placement”. Prof Jayne Clapton (Griffith) presented a stimulating insight into “How widening participation/social inclusion strategies in higher education impact student placements in professional programs” and Dr Erin O’Connor (QUT) & Maria Hoogstrate (Endeavour Foundation) spoke on “Curriculum and community in partnership: Student and community response to multi-disciplinary service learning”.

Alan Blackman, Chair

**ACEN WA**

ACEN WA has worked actively through-out 2014 to maintain an engaged WA Chapter of ACEN. ACEN WA and the WA branch of HERDSA have established an active partnership which maximises opportunities for WA members to participate in networking and professional development opportunities. It also optimises the sharing of resources and benefits for members of both organisations. ACEN WA is also engaged in collaborative discussions with Engagement Australia. ACEN WA and the WA branch of the Chambers of Commerce and Industry are working together to improve industry engagement in work integrated learning across WA.

ACEN WA has hosted two webinars in partnership with the OLT project team for Building institutional capacity to enhance access, participation and progression in work integrated learning. The first webinar was held on Wednesday 19 March and attended by 86 professional and academic staff. The webinar was titled Engaging diverse students in work integrated learning. The second webinar titled Responding to diverse students in work integrated learning was held on 3 September and enjoyed by 56 attendees. This webinar focussed on the specific challenges for international students engaging in WIL and the ramifications of the financial hardship for students when undertaking WIL. Both webinars were chaired by the WA State Chair.

On Thursday 17th July, the Western Australian arm of ACEN sponsored a workshop facilitated by Sonia Ferns at Murdoch University. The event titled Assessing work integrated learning explored the challenges of assessing WIL in a multi-faceted and unpredictable context. Attendees worked with the Authentic Assessment Framework, a valuable tool for staff when designing authentic assessment profiles across degree programs. The event attracted substantial interest from 40 local staff that invest energy in engaging students in the world of work and are challenged by traditional assessment models which fail to recognise the performance-based nature of WIL pedagogy. The workshop was an interactive and interesting session enjoyed immensely by all participants.

ACEN WA led the publication of the WIL in Curriculum HERDSA Guide which was launched in Hong Kong at the Annual HERDSA Conference. The publication is an informative and valuable resource for WIL practitioners, institutional leaders and industry partners. Authors of both international and national recognition have contributed to the WIL in Curriculum HERDSA Guide.

Sonia Ferns, Chair

**ACEN SA / NT**

Engaging with industry, networking within and between institutions in the WIL arena and collaboration between educators remain the key areas of focus for the SA/NT ACEN network.

Our small committee concentrated its efforts on the development and delivery of a major event in November 2013, whilst continuing to promote WIL in an ACEN context within our own networks. ACEN SA/NT, SANTPEN and HERDSA SA hosted a whole day collaborative teaching and learning event on 20th November at Flinders University. ‘Network your Networks: working together to maximise knowledge and opportunities in teaching and learning’ included a variety of discussions and workshop sessions, providing participants with the opportunity to identify priorities and gaps in researching
teaching and learning, discuss and develop research ideas, and consider ways to determine the impact of teaching. We had a variety of expert speakers including Allan Goody, President Higher Education Research and Development Society Australasia, Professor Keith Trigwell, Institute of Teaching and Learning, University of Sydney, Professor Malcolm Tight, Lancaster University, UK and our very own ACEN National Director, Judie Kay.

Collaboration was a key focus for this event which was very well received, with calls for similar partnership events in the future. We are exploring potential for this, plus an industry/higher education networking event in 2015.

The SA/NT committee is on the look-out for new members. If you would like to work with our small but enthusiastic team, please contact the SA/NT Chapter Chair, Ceri Macleod via email at ceri.macleod@flinders.edu.au. We would love to have you on board!

Ceri McLeod, Chair

**ACEN VIC / TAS**

**Victorian/Tasmanian Committee**

Thanks go to the following members of the Victorian/Tasmanian state branch for their active commitment to advancing ACEN on a state/s level: Mary Appleby (Swinburne); Rachael Hains-Wesson (Deakin); Friederika Kaider (Deakin); Karin Mathison (UTAS); Gaon Mitchell (Victoria U); Leoni Russell (RMIT); and Gail Quirk (La Trobe). Unfortunately, Karin tendered her resignation during the term, with her contribution duly acknowledged. Thanks also to chair Gail and minute-taker Gaon and LaTrobe University for the use of their premises.

**National Board Matters**

The committee discussed, contributed to and/or participated in issues raised by the National Board including:

- ACEN Strategic Plan 2013-2015
- 2014 ACEN Conference and Research Seminar
- Statement of Intent between Universities Australia, Business Council of Australia, Australian Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Australian Industry Group and ACEN
- WIL Vignettes for the HERDSA guide (and chapter contributions by Leoni Russell)
- Hosting of Japanese delegation
- National ACEN membership survey
- Governance training arranged by Board for state committee members

**State Matters**

The committee discussed and took action on a number of local matters including:

- The Department of State Development, Business and Innovation’s pilot Melbourne Internship
- Program targeted at internships for international students.
- HERDSA conference committee investigating employing students in a WIL internship for the 2015 HERDSA Conference in Melbourne
- Suggestion that post-graduate research students be offered a WIL experience in peer reviewing conference papers
- Expanding ACEN membership and WIL communities of practice across Victoria and Tasmania
- Planning two State-based ACEN seminars on OLT projects (as a response to national survey): 1) Engaging Diverse Students in WIL on October 17th at VU, and 2) WIL Leadership Project on November 19th at RMIT
- Planning a joint HERDSA-ACEN seminar
- Demonstration of “My Employability Lab” by educational publisher Pearson as tool that allows students to self-audit their employability skills, and then provides support to build skills and confidence.
- Establishing a drop box to serve as a central repository for all state agendas, minutes and other documents
- Fair Work Australia issues
- Recognition of Prior Learning and WIL

Gail Quirk, Chair
ACT/NSW


• How do we find evidence of the outcomes of WIL
• The challenges of creating WIL placements for a diverse student cohort
• Assisting employers to get the most out of a WIL placement
• Managing non-placement WIL (on hold till 2015)
• Developing WIL opportunities for non-traditional disciplines

September 2013 – WORKSHOP/SYMPOSIA– hosted by University of Newcastle

“The challenges of creating WIL placements for a diverse student cohort” held at The University of Newcastle on 6 September was by all accounts a success. 76 attendees were an engaged audience of diverse colleagues representing a range of universities was refreshing. I was encouraged by the number of people mixing and chatting, getting to know each other and sharing information. The feedback was generally positive, with a lot of excellent feedback about the structure of the day. Many participants were pleased to have lunch together as it enabled conversations to continue and provided further opportunity to mingle with colleagues from different Universities.

The committee has decided to adopt this approach to future workshops.

November 2013 – SYMPOSIUM hosted by University of Wollongong (UOW)

A partnership between the University of Wollongong and the Australian Collaborative Education Network (ACEN), the symposium launched an invigorated WIL & Employability focus for UOW and provided a common platform for academic and professional staff from NSW universities to engage in collegial and strategic discussions regarding WIL and to share innovative and best practice strategies.

The symposium promised a line-up of inspirational leaders, researchers, and practitioners and UOW certainly delivered. There was interactive discussion around the challenges of contemporizing traditional WIL practices that correspond with digital innovations in curricular and co-curricular contexts, and exploration of the connections to employability and career development. Excellent attendance and thanks to UOW for their dedication in developing an outstanding program.

May 2014 – WORKSHOP/FORUM hosted by University of Western Sydney

An important media release focused on the Statement of Intent – Implementing the WIL Alliance between Universities and Business. This prompted quick action from the NSW/ACT chapter committee and a workshop was scheduled. Titled “Developing Engagement with Industry: Implementing the WIL Alliance between Universities and Business”.

Two workshops were held to gather the thoughts, concerns and suggestions from the 55 + delegates attending the workshop. The workshops were lively, with representatives from various businesses and industry, Universities Australia, the Office of Learning and Teaching, NSW Business chamber, ACCI, President of ACEN, plus a broad range of academic and professional staff from several universities in New South Wales. The outcomes of the workshops will be incorporated into the 2014 ACEN National Conference.

Angela Samuels, Chair

ACEN Board

I would like to thank all members of the current ACEN Board for their continuing support and contribution to ACEN activities during 2013 / 2014 period. I would like to particularly thank Pamela Struthers for her contribution as Treasurer and Alan Blackman for undertaking the role of secretary during this period. Pam Struthers is retiring from the Board and we wish her well and thank her for her expertise and guidance around financial matters.

Many thanks to the Chapter Chairs for their contribution; Sonia Ferns, Ceri MacLeod, Gail Quirk, Angela Samuels and Alan Blackman. With Freny Tayebjee and Friederika Kaider also serving as Chapter Representatives on the ACEN Board. General executive members over the period were Ruth Wallace, Heather Smigiel, Calvin Smith, Michael Whelan, Keri Moore and Matthew Campbell
I would like to take this opportunity to thank Calvin Smith and Matthew Campbell, who both resigned during this period, for their significant contribution to ACEN.

Keri Moore, Ruth Wallace and Heather Smigiel are retiring from the ACEN Board at this AGM, I would like to thank them for their important contribution to student scholarships and ACEN's research initiatives.

I would also like to particularly express our appreciation to Michael Whelan and Keri Moore for their contribution as Chair of the Organising Committee and Chair of the Program for this 2014 National Conference.

A special thanks to Professor Ian Goulter who provided invaluable advice to the ACEN Board in relation to the Statement of Intent during this period.

Many thanks again to our administrator Don MacDowall who has provided the ACEN Board and ACEN members with exceptional organisational and administrative support over this period.

**National Executive as at 2014 AGM**

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<tr>
<td>Ms Judie Kay, RMIT University</td>
<td>President and Advocacy and Industry Engagement</td>
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<td>Ms Pam Struthers, Murdoch University</td>
<td>Chair of Finance and Audit Committee.</td>
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<td>Ms Freny Tayebjee, University of Western Sydney</td>
<td>Communications and Membership and NSW/ACT Representative</td>
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<td>Ms Ceri Macleod, Flinders University</td>
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<td>Dr Alan Blackman, Griffith University</td>
<td>Company Secretary and Qld Representative</td>
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<td>Ms Sonia Ferns Curtin University</td>
<td>Student Scholarships and WA Representative</td>
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<td>Ms Friederika Kaider, Deakin University</td>
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<td>Mrs Jude Smith, Queensland University of Technology</td>
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<td>Dr Michael Whelan, Southern Cross University</td>
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