



Chairs of Academic Board Forum

[independent higher education providers]

Monday 17 November 2025 from 9.30 am to 5 pm

(Eastern Daylight Saving Time)

Joint Forum with HEPP-QN

Theme: “Critical insights in higher education”

The second meeting of the Chairs of Academic Boards Forum for 2025 will be a **joint meeting with HEPP-QN (Higher Education Private Providers Quality Network) and part of the 2025 HEPP-QN National Forum**. The Chairs of Academic Boards Forum gratefully acknowledges the invitation from HEPP-QN to participate in the National Forum.

The Joint HEPP-QN CABF meeting is an all-day hybrid forum on Monday 17 November 2025 at the Monash Conference Centre, Level 7, 30 Collins Street, Melbourne and also available by Zoom. Our members are also welcome to participate in the second day of the HEPP-QN National Forum on Thursday 20 November 2025.

The program features keynote presentations from Professor Kwong Lee Dow, Michael Wells, Professor Andrew Norton and Dr Michael Tomlinson. Note that the TEQSA Annual Conference is on 18 and 19 November 2025 at the nearby Sofitel Melbourne.

The Chairs of Academic Boards Forum was established by the Independent Higher Education Providers (also known as Institutes of Higher Education). The Forum is dedicated to the advancement and success of the independent sector. Since its foundation in 2012, it has offered regular opportunities for professional development via expert presentations, online resources and discussion of key issues affecting the sector. For more information on the Forum and access to presentations and resources, please visit the website <https://cabfnuhep.wixsite.com/cabf>

John Loxton

Convenor, Chairs of Academic Boards Forum

johnloxton8@gmail.com

Program and registration – see over

HEPP-QN National Forum November 2025

**Monday 17 November 2025 (HEPP-QN and CABF)
and Thursday 20 November 2025 (HEPP-QN)**

Venue: Monash Conference Centre, Level 7, 30 Collins St, Melbourne VIC 3000 and Zoom

The cost of the face-to-face event is \$200 per day and the cost to participate online is \$70 per day (to cover the costs of hiring the venue, catering and streaming the sessions).

PLEASE REGISTER USING THE LINKS BELOW FOR ONE OR BOTH DAYS

Face to Face link - <https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/hepp-qn-national-forum-17-and-20-november-2025-face-to-face-in-melb...>

Online link - <https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/hepp-qn-national-forum-17-and-20-november-2025-online-tickets-16269...>

DRAFT PROGRAM (some final details still to be confirmed)

	Monday 17 November 2025	Thursday 20 November 2025
9:30–10:00am	HEPP-QN Insights Professor Jane Fernandez Founder HEPP-QN and Provost Excelsia University College	Student and Graduate Panel
10:00–11:00am	Keynote: Mr. Andrew Norton Professor of Higher Education Policy Monash Business School Monash University	Keynote: Mr Michael Wells Partner Minter Ellison
11:00–11:20am	MORNING TEA	
11:20am–12:00pm	A Community of Practice Approach to an Effective AI Working Group Prof Peter Schmidt (Holmes Institute) and Prof Hamish Coates (The Australian National University)	Keynote: Professor Kwong Lee Dow Honorary Fellow University of Melbourne
12:00–12:20pm	Chairs of HEPP-QN and CABF – Network Directions Prof Jane Fernandez and Prof John Loxton	Assessment and Scholarship Case studies [Institutions]
12:20–1:00pm	AI Literacy as a Graduate Capability: Preparing Students for Human–Machine Collaboration David Kegan - Senior Lecturer/Field Education Lead School of Social Work – Excelsia University College	Keynote: Looking Back to Look Forward – Recurring Themes and Future Challenges Dr Michael Tomlinson
1:00–2:00pm	LUNCH	
2:00–3:00pm	Soapbox Presentations Academic Governance Structures (Professor Tony Baker) Transnational education (Emeritus Professors Geoff Scott and John Loxton)	Soapbox Presentations The Moral Purpose of HE in the Age of Opportunity – Vahid Chittleborough Empowering Student Minds: Mentorship through Cognitive and Innovative Leadership in Higher Education – Dr Safoora Pitsi
3:00–4:00pm	Integrating GenAI image and video in authentic assessment – Assoc Professor Andy West AI Survey and Upcoming Scholarship Publication – HEPP-QN Project Group	The Hidden Curriculum of GenAI Policies in Higher Education: What students learn from how we regulate AI – Assoc Prof Harold Culala Assurance of Learning versus Assurance of Teaching – Professor Albert Haddad (TBC)
4:00–5:00pm	QA and Regulation of Higher Education Institutions	Assurance of Learning Workshop Institutions
6:00pm	Informal Networking Dinner	