Purpose

To provide a list of key Commonwealth documents pertaining to higher education in relation to legislation, funding, reviews and other relevant matters pertaining to the operations of the Australian higher education system. It also provides a list of key vocational education and training documents pertaining to the funding and operation of the TAFE system in Victoria.

Higher Education

Legislation

Higher Education Support Act 2003
Brief: An Act relating to the funding of higher education, and for other purposes

Brief: An Act to deal with transitional and consequential matters arising from the enactment of the Higher Education Support Act 2003, and for other purposes

Policy

Our Universities: Backing Australia's Future
Brief: Commonwealth policy paper released in 2003 that lays the foundation for a ten-year vision for Australian higher education.

Backining Australia's Ability - Building Our Future Through Science and Innovation
Brief: Package of measures designed to build and pursue excellence in research, science and technology through the generation of new ideas (research and development); the commercial application of ideas; and developing and retaining skills.

Research Quality Framework
http://www.dest.gov.au/sectors/research_sector/policies_issues_reviews/key_issues/research_quality_framework/
Brief: The aim of the framework initiative is to develop the basis for an improved assessment of the quality and impact of publicly funded research and an effective process to achieve this.

Reviews

Building University Diversity: Future approval and accreditation processes for Australian higher education
http://www.dest.gov.au/sectors/higher_education/policy_issues_reviews/reviews/building_diversity/building_university_diversity.htm

Further Development of the National Protocols for Higher Education Approval Processes (Guthrie Review)
Building Better Foundations for Higher Education in Australia: A discussion about re-aligning Commonwealth-State responsibilities
http://www.dest.gov.au/sectors/higher_education/policy_issues_reviews/key_issues/commonwealth_state_responsibility_higher_ed.htm

This website contains the overview and related issues papers which commenced the review that resulted in the current government policy setting:
- Overview paper: Higher Education at a Crossroads
- Striving for Quality: Learning, teaching and scholarship
- Setting firm foundations: Financing Australian higher education
- Varieties of excellence: Diversity, specialisation and regional engagement
- Achieving equitable and appropriate outcomes: Indigenous Australians in higher education
- Meeting the challenges: The governance and management of universities
- Varieties of learning: The interface between higher education and vocational education and training

Other key HE links:

Quality Assurance of Offshore Higher Education
http://www.dest.gov.au/sectors/international_education/policy_issues_reviews/key_issues/assuring_quality_in_australian_higher_education/default.htm
Assuring Quality in Australian Higher Education
http://www.dest.gov.au/sectors/higher_education/policy_issues_reviews/key_issues/assuring_quality_in_higher_education/default.htm
Higher Education Report for the 2004 to 2006 Triennium
Institution Assessment Framework (IAF) (formerly Educational Profiles)

Vocational Education and Training

Policy

Ministerial Statement - Knowledge and Skills for the Innovation Economy

Reviews

Assessing Demand and Establishing Priorities for VET
Brief: IT contains reports from the project to identify priorities for government funded VET in Victoria produced during 2004. The reports include updated Industry Priorities Reports and the first generation of outputs from the regional (Study Area) analysis.

IRCU, Key Government Resources: Legislation, Policy and Review