What's New in Institutional Research?
February 2004

Latest research findings from the Institutional Research Consultancy Unit. The web links below point directly to the relevant section to access these documents.

- **RMIT Key Stats 1999-2003** - this is a snapshot of RMIT's performance over the past five years. It's a useful and handy one-pager reference:

- Under the **Student Outcomes** section, one finds the 'Item by Item', an interactive online tool that enables analyse of the results of the Course Experience Questionnaire and Student Outcomes Survey for the past five years, on a program-by-program basis:

- The 34th Annual Report of the **Graduate Destination Survey** is now online. This report provides information on the numbers of graduates in full time employment, enterprise formation and other useful indicators. The Career Development Unit and the IRCU jointly prepared the 2003 report.

- Updates to the 2003-04 **Industry Dossiers**. Seven dossiers are currently under preparation and your feedback and input would be very much appreciated. The dossiers are in the industry areas of
  - Biotechnology
  - Community Services
  - Food and Food Science
  - Health (Focussing on Wellness)
  - Information and Communications Technology
  - Power and Water
  - Transport and Logistics (including Supply Chain Management)

The interim report is a springboard for discussion for the next phase of the dossier process that will enable internal and external stakeholders to explore the issues and opportunities in greater depth. The outcome of these discussions will be incorporated into the final dossier that will then be used in the profile planning process.

- A **VET Alignment** section has been added recently to the web section. A 'VET Issues' paper has been released which reviews issues relating to TAFE provision and challenges to RMIT as a public VET provider, to inform discussion of the TAFE profile for 2005 and onwards. The scope of the issues discussed is this paper relate to a 1-3 year out perspective. This is the first of a series of briefing papers to be prepared by the IRCU during 2004 that will identify the TAFE Agenda / issues and their implications for RMIT. This section of the web site will be regularly updated.
- The third volume of the series on **GATS and Tertiary Education** has been released. The purpose of this volume is to
  - Provide an overview on the current status of the General Agreement on Trade in Services (GATS) and bilateral and regional trade agreements in the context of education services;
  - Identify emerging issues in international education;
  - Suggest some potential impacts of GATS and bilateral and regional trade agreements on Australia's and RMIT's international education activities.
  http://www2.rmit.edu.au/departments/planning/ircu/gatsforum.php

- A new volume in the series of **Student Life Background Readings** has been released. This volume presents current research into student life at Australian tertiary education institutions. It also presents findings into current and emerging trends in Australian society in general, which are influencing the way students and educational institutions mutually interact. An international research perspective is provided, where relevant, to indicate the global trends in tertiary student life.

- The IRCU has prepared an "**Environmental Scanning" guide**. The guide describes a preferred framework and approach for the practice of environmental scanning (ES) at RMIT. It sets out the aims, methodology and application of ES and provides definitions of key concepts. The Guide is a planning tool for use at all levels of RMIT but particularly by Schools/Groups in strategic planning and development of business cases. The full version of the Guide, including a comprehensive list of online resources, is available on the IRCU website:
  http://www2.rmit.edu.au/departments/planning/ircu/escan.php

- Updates to the **Higher Education Review** section continue to be added periodically. In this section one would be able to retrieve analyses and background papers in relation to the higher education reform package. There are also links to the newsletters produced by DEST, which reports on progress regarding implementation of "Backing Australia's Future".

- A **mapping of unmet demand** for higher education programs has been recently completed. This mapping provides useful information on the outcomes of VTAC applicants, by broad field of education, to RMIT programs compared to the State as a whole. This is a work in progress report from the IRCU.
  - To be available online later in May/June
About the IRCU

The main function of the IRCU is to coordinate the collection, organisation and analysis of institutional data and other quantitative and qualitative information to support institutional management, operations, decision-making and planning functions of RMIT University.

The IRCU is also engaged in applied educational research, performance measurement, evaluation and assessment; and is proactive in the study and advancement of higher education. For more information contact us on 9925 9705 or visit the website: http://www2.rmit.edu.au/departments/planning/ircu

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