Latest research and scan findings from the Institutional Research Consultancy Unit (IRCU). The web links below point directly to the relevant section to access these reports/findings/tools.

- **The Knowledge Worker 2015-2020** - This 'working paper' is one environmental scan of a series developed to bring into focus a discussion of the directions of industry and labour market in Australia and the ways tertiary education may respond. The 'Knowledge Worker of 2015-2020' is a paper that is intended to be used as a starting point for further discussion and consideration.  

- The seven **industry dossiers** developed in recent months are available in full text or in summary. Such dossiers are in the industry areas of  
  - Biotechnology  
  - Community Services  
  - Food and Food Science  
  - Health (Focusing on Wellness)  
  - Information and Communications Technology  
  - Power and Water  
  - Transport and Logistics (including Supply Chain Management)  

- **Economic Industry Analysis** – This environmental scan provides additional contextual information to industry dossiers currently under consideration for the 2004 profile process, to bring into focus a discussion of the directions of industry in Australia. This scan forms part of the overall industry activity undertaken by the IRCU in the context of education and the economy. In particular, this document makes reference to the eleven dossiers developed during 2002/03 and the seven dossiers developed in 2003/04. It also refers to the Environmental Scan of Australian and International Industry priorities (September 2003).  

- **Victorian Economic Analysis** - The environmental scan "Victorian Economic Summary - April 2004" provides data on Victorian industry and it will be updated on a regular basis.  

- **RMIT at a Glance** is a section in the Planning Group portal, which contains a range of statistical information, including the popular 2003 Pocket Stats and Key Stats 1999-2003. The former is a brief statistical overview of RMIT’s activity in 2003; the latter is a snapshot of RMIT's performance over the past five years:  

- The **Student Outcomes** section has been growing in recent months, with new CEQ, GDS and SOS reports. Also, there have been a number of changes made to the interactive online tools that enable analyses of the results of the Course Experience Questionnaire (CEQ) and Student Outcomes Survey (SOS) for the past five years, on a program-by-program basis. The CEQ tool has been expanded to include reports on all individual items, all scales as well as field of education/study comparisons:  

- The Victorian government released an economic statement “**Victoria: Leading the Way**” on April 20, 2004. The IRCU prepared a brief particularly which focuses on the sections of relevance to the education sector, and brings attention to the actions of specific interest to RMIT.  

- The Commonwealth and State governments released their **2003-04 budget statements** in recent weeks. The IRCU prepared an update on each budget statement, and brings attention to measures of particular interest to RMIT. The web link below provides access to the main government pages as well as various other reports.  
What's New in Institutional Research?
May 2004

- A fourth volume in the series of Background Reading: Student Life has been released. This volume presents current research into student life at Australian tertiary education institutions. This volume focuses on postgraduate education. There is also a brief discussion paper which provides a summary of the key trends in postgraduate student life from a survey of selected literature. Previous volumes present findings into current and emerging trends in Australian society in general, which are influencing the way students and educational institutions mutually interact.


- In recent weeks, the IRCU has been conducting a number of information sessions to highlight results of the CEQ, SOS and GDS. These sessions have provided an opportunity to have a ‘hands-on’ experience with the interactive tools. Feedback received from participants at such sessions have resulted in web enhancements to such tools. At such sessions, participants have had opportunity to discuss strategies at local level to improve the graduate experience as well as improve graduate response rate. If you would like a briefing with your work group, please send an email to ircu@rmit.edu.au or contact Ann Hornsby

- The IRCU has developed an interactive online tool that enables analysis of admissions data from the Victorian Tertiary Admissions Centre (VTAC). These tools use the web (after RMIT login) to access VTAC data, which has been aggregated and stored in databases generated by IRCU. The tools dynamically produce reports in multiple formats. VTAC data can be of considerable use in understanding the types of student in particular programs as well as providing some idea of demand and popularity. This sort of information together with other student and program data can contribute significantly towards planning for the future.

  The types of analyses that are possible include but are not limited to
  - Secondary school last attended
  - Preference of enrolled program
  - Fee type of enrolled program
  - Gender ratio of enrolled program
  - VTAC category
  - ENTER scores grouped in ten categories


- The latest issue, and past issues, of the IRCU’s newsletter ‘research’ are available online. These newsletter provide a highlight of significant developments in the arena of post-secondary education:

  http://www2.rmit.edu.au/departments/planning/ircu/newsletters.php

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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