



PERFORMANCE FUNDING INDICATORS AND RELATED REFORMS IN HIGHER EDUCATION

On 28 January 2010, the LH Martin Institute and the Centre for the Study of Higher Education at the University of Melbourne hosted a seminar on the Government's proposed Performance Funding Indicator Framework.

The Go8's Executive Director, Michael Gallagher, was asked to present his views on the topic. Below is a synopsis of the key points he raised.

"The Government's consultations on performance funding and low-SES participation provide opportunities for important inputs to be made. The Go8 seeks to make the most of these opportunities and to work constructively with the Government in achieving important outcomes for the country.

It is necessary to understand in a comprehensive way what is required to achieve the higher education participation and attainment goals set by the Australian Government. The main financial challenges are:

- Securing adequate funding for increased participation without diminishing quality;
- Providing sufficient teaching personnel with adequate capabilities;
- Providing the necessary infrastructure for teaching and learning.

An approach to performance-related funding can be developed which encourages the sector to meet the increasingly diverse needs of the student body accessing higher

education, and allows individual universities to contribute variously to their fullest extent to achieve the Government's objectives.

However, the Government's consultation papers on performance funding and low SES measures reflect greater sameness than difference of approach to universities, and a much greater than expected level of central influence over institutional operations, notwithstanding the rhetoric of respect for university autonomy and the intention for government, as expressed in the 2009 Budget papers, to get out of the way.

For the performance funding framework to contribute to the Government's ambitions for increased participation and improved quality, the indicator framework and measures need to reflect the complexity and diversity needed to meet these ambitions.

Through the use of compacts with publishable institution-specific measures of performance, the Government could shape the outcomes achieved by universities in line with its national goals, without reducing institutional flexibility. Such a path of development is necessary in an expanded 'post-mass' system that addresses the needs of a greater diversity of students effectively and efficiently."

A full copy of his speaking notes and slides can be found on the

[Go8 website](#).

Go8-C9-HARVARD CONFERENCE



Harvard University

Next month the Go8 will convene a conference on climate change at Harvard University for PhD students from Australia, China and the United States.

The Go8 has partnered with Harvard University and the leading universities in China, the C9, in organising a conference for the research leaders of the next generation to present their global perspectives on climate change.

The conference aims to highlight research work that displays genuine disciplinary crossover. Science students and Humanities/Social Science students will exchange research ideas, crossing disciplines, cultures, and continents.

Forty students from the three nations whose research links humanities and science in innovative ways have been selected to participate.

For further information contact:
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Go8 L'AQUILA SCHOLARSHIPS



In 2010 the Go8 will welcome eight early career researchers from the Italian city of L'Aquila who will receive scholarships to continue their research in Australia while the University of L'Aquila is rebuilt.

In the aftermath of the April 2009 earthquake in L'Aquila which claimed nearly 300 lives and left thousands injured, the university was virtually shut down and is now slowly being rebuilt. Fifty five of those who died were from the university's 23,000-strong student body.

In 2009 the Go8 answered the call for assistance from the Association for Research between Italy and Australasia (ARIA) by offering eight scholarships of \$5000 each to early career researchers to travel to Australia and spend time conducting research at Go8 member universities.

Professor Anna Tozzi, PVC International Relationships at the University of L'Aquila, said "the Go8 contribution will make an enormous difference, providing not only practical help for researchers to continue their work but also hope for the community."

The Go8 scholarships have been awarded to: Dr Sara Amoroso in Engineering, Dr Antonio Bonacaro in Nursing, Dr Linda Colecchi in Medical Science, Dr Elvira Di Bona in Philosophy, Dr Fabiana Di Marco in Medicine, Dr Stefano Ercolino in Australian Literature, Dr Valentina Martemucci in Italian Studies and Dr Stefania Romeo in Physiology.

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CONFERENCE DISCOUNTS FOR Go8 UNIVERSITY STAFF

Staff of Go8 member universities will receive a 10% discount on the price of registration for two upcoming higher education conferences.

The Higher Education Congress 10–12 March 2010 in Sydney

Speakers include The University of Sydney's Vice-Chancellor, Dr Michael Spence and Go8 Executive Director, Michael Gallagher

Details available:

<http://www.acevents.com.au/education2010/>



Dr Michael Spence
The University of Sydney

The Higher Education Summit 29–30 April in Adelaide

Speakers include Monash University Vice-Chancellor, Professor Ed Byrne

Details available:

<http://www.highereducationsummit.com.au/>



Professor Ed Byrne
Monash University

Contact the Go8 secretariat to request the appropriate registration form in order to receive the Go8 discount.

Email: executive.director@go8.edu.au

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Go8 Directors of Advancement meet in Adelaide on 16 February
- Go8 Human Resources Directors meet in Auckland on 19 February
- Go8 Vice-Chancellors meet in Canberra on 25 February
- Go8 DVCs and Directors International meet in Canberra on 26 February
- Go8 Legal Counsel Committee meets in Adelaide on 26 February
- Go8 Communications Directors meet in Canberra on 2 March
- Go8 Academic Policy Committee meets in Canberra on 5 March
- Go8 Deans of Graduate Studies Workshop in Sydney on 12 March
- Go8 Research Directors meet in Canberra on 25–26 March
- Go8 Deans of Medicine meet in Canberra on 13 April

ABOUT THIS NEWSLETTER

The *Go8 Update* is published online to keep the Go8 network of committees and staff at Go8 universities informed about the organisation's activities.

Past editions are available at www.go8.edu.au.

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