




Australian Government
Department of Education and Training

Our Ref MC16-004128

Dr Allan Goody
President
Higher Education Research and Development Society of Australasia
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Dear Dr Goody 

Thank you for your email of 25 April 2016 on behalf of the Higher Education Research and Development Society of Australasia, to Senator the Hon Simon Birmingham, Minister for Education and Training, regarding the Office for Learning and Teaching (OLT). The Minister for Education and Training has referred your letter to the department for response.

With the recent announcement by the Prime Minister, the Hon Malcolm Turnbull MP, of the forthcoming election, the Australian Government is in a *caretaker role* and decisions are not taken or advice given that would bind an incoming government and limit its freedom of action.

Within this context I am able to advise that in the 2016–17 Budget the Australian Government has redirected approximately \$18 million of funding over four years from the Promotion of Excellence in Learning and Teaching in Higher Education (PELTHE), which is administered by the OLT, to fund new transparency and quality measures. Further information is available on the OLT website at http://www.olt.gov.au/olt_future

From 30 June 2016 the OLT will cease operating. All existing grants, including those awarded in 2016, will be fully funded and managed by the department to their conclusion.

The Promotion of Excellence in Learning and Teaching in Higher Education will continue to fund awards through the Australian Awards for University Teaching (AAUT) program for national recognition of excellence and innovation in learning and teaching. The 2016 AAUT citations and awards will continue as planned with state-based citations ceremonies scheduled for September and October and a national awards ceremony to be held in December 2016.

Thank you for your support of the Office for Learning and Teaching and its activities over the past four years. I look forward to continuing to work with you and the Higher Education Research and Development Society of Australasia as we continue the peer assessment of citations and awards and work towards the AAUT presentation ceremonies later this year.

Yours sincerely



Ms Di Weddell
Branch Manager
Student Information and Learning Branch

12 May 2016