

Elizabeth McDonald

Australian Learning and Teaching Council

Dr Elizabeth McDonald is the Director, International at the Australian Learning and Teaching Council. She took up this position after a period as Director Programs and Networks at the Australian Learning and Teaching Council. In 2006, she took up an appointment at the then Carrick Institute for Learning and Teaching in Higher Education with responsibility for the Grants Scheme. The Institute, now known as the Australian Learning and Teaching Council, is an initiative of the Australian Government. It has a charter to advance and promote learning and teaching in Australian Higher Education. Prior to her appointment to the Institute, Elizabeth spent a year on loan from the Department of Education, Science and Training (DEST) to the Institute to assist with its development and was engaged in all aspects of planning during that year. In 2003-04 she was Director, Teaching and Learning Unit, Higher Education, DEST during the early implementation of the higher education reforms arising from *Our Universities: Backing Australia's Future*.



Australian Learning and Teaching Council – a national organisation charged with advancing Australian learning and teaching in higher education.

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Abstract

The Australian Government established the Australian Learning and Teaching Council (ALTC) to advance learning and teaching in Australian higher education in 2004. It is fully funded by the Government. When it began full operations in 2006 it was known as the Carrick Institute for Learning and Teaching in Higher Education. This paper explores how the ALTC accomplishes its mission through the provision of awards, fellowships and grants and by means of other initiatives which are testing new ways to support academics to share good practice in learning and teaching. The early part of the paper provides some insight into the context for the development of the ALTC and the environment in which it now operates. The paper then examines how the ALTC operates, provides some reflections on the impact of the programs and finally makes a few brief comments about the future in the constantly changing environment of higher education.