New challenges and opportunities for the ALTC

HERDSA Conference
Melbourne, 9 July 2010
ALTC’s operating environment has changed

• Budget cuts – 20% cut from 2011-12

• Changing educational landscape –
  ▪ Establishment of TEQSA
  ▪ Election year
  ▪ New Minister/owner
  ▪ New CEO

• Respond to recent review of Grants program & other formal & feedback
Reshaped Strategic Direction

Proposed strategies to respond to reduced budget & changed operating environment:

1. Administrative savings
2. Realignment of existing programs
3. Establish new programs & activities
Realignment of current programs

• Respond to evaluations and other formal & informal feedback

• Diversify activities to become more than grant-giver

• Explicitly address/target government & sector priorities

• Simplify suite of existing programs

• Overcome any perception of limited impact
Revised Suite of Programs

1. Competitive Grants
2. Strategic Priority Projects
3. Leadership Program
4. Awards
5. Fellowships
1. Competitive Grants

• Currently $3.5 million for Competitive Grants + $4.9 million for Priority Projects ($8.4 mill)

• $5.5 million for new amalgamated program

• Competitive grants will need to address identified priority areas (yet to be determined)
2. Strategic Priority Projects

• Commissioned investigations/projects to respond to key issues in sector

• Identified on an annual basis but to be added to as issues emerge

• $1.5 million
2. Strategic Priority Projects

Possible topics:

• Indigenous issues
• Evidence of outcomes from teaching preparation approaches
• Research/teaching nexus
• Impact of deregulation on learning and teaching outcomes
• Impact of widening student participation on curriculum, pedagogy, student experience
• Strategies for dealing with ageing academic workforce
• Strategies for developing English language proficiency
• International education issues
3. Leadership Program

• Reduce funding to $2 million from $3 million

• Program elements:
  - Leadership Grants - $1.5 million
  - ALTC badged professional development for leadership in learning and teaching - $500,000
4. Awards Program

• Citations – strong sector support for existing structure – add new category for Early Career citations (10 within existing 210 limit)

• Teaching Awards – reduce from 27 to 24

• Program Awards – no changes proposed.

• Total funding of $3.1 million (reduced from $3.175 million)
5. Fellowships

• Current funding - $2.75 million – reduce to $1.57 million

• Abolish Teaching Fellowships

• Maintain 5 National Teaching Fellowships
5. Establish new programs & activities

Principles to frame new directions:

• Stronger engagement in policy space on learning & teaching related issues

• Get greater value from what has already been funded

• Systemic impact should be a focus not just individuals

• More varied approaches to dissemination

• Respond more directly and publicly to Government and sector needs and interests

• Diversification of activities – become more than a grant giver
5. Establish new programs & activities

1. **Synthesis projects (What works in....)**

   Summary and synthesis of best practice drawing on ALTC grants, national and international best practice. Identify gaps and opportunities in topic. Range of significant topics eg.

   - Support for international students
   - Teaching large classes
   - Widening student participation
   - English language proficiency

    2010/11 - 10 x $25,000
5. Establish new programs and activities

2. *Engagement Strategy* – increase and broaden stakeholder engagement:

- **Forums** – series of state-based forums on key topics – on day of citations ceremonies in capital cities; online forums – PEI & Fellows to take leadership on agenda, speakers (award winners, Fellows)

- **Student Engagement** – interest of Government in ‘student voice’ – student drive system

- **ALTC Alumni Program**

- **Revised Website**
5. Establish new programs & activities

3. More active engagement in policy

- Collaborations on policy developments with key people in sector
- Develop policy position papers on key learning and teaching issues
- Establish forums (virtual and actual) for policy discussions
5. Establish new programs & activities

4. Special Initiatives Reserve Fund
   • Strategic partnerships and projects that arise during the year and require a rapid responsiveness to position the ALTC appropriately