

Preamble

This publication incorporates administrative guidelines relating to section 19 of the *Higher Education Act 2001*. They should be read in association with the Act and the *National Protocols for Higher Education Approval Processes* endorsed by the national Ministerial Council on Education, Employment, Training and Youth Affairs in March 2000.

The guidelines are intended for education institutions applying for higher education services under the provisions of the *Higher Education Act 2001* and for the independent panels and advisory committees that will assess applications. They replace the document entitled *Higher Education Accreditation Guidelines* issued by the Department of Education and Training in March 2001.

The Department acknowledges the contribution made by higher education focus groups which participated in the consultative process for the guidelines. It also acknowledges the co-operation of the accreditation agencies in other States and Territories. In the interest of national consistency, the Department liaised closely with these agencies and drew on their publications, particularly the following:

- Australian Capital Territory Accreditation and Registration Council, *Higher Education Guidelines*, 2001.
- Office of Higher Education, Education Queensland, *Procedures and Criteria for the Accreditation of Higher Education Courses Offered by Non-University Providers*, 1997.
- Office of Higher Education, Education Victoria, *Seeking Approval to Conduct Higher Education Courses in Victoria*, 1999.

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