Guidelines for Benchmarking Learning and Teaching Outcomes

1. Processes
   a. The delivery of all courses at ECU will involve deliberate forms of benchmarking as a component of their quality assurance processes.
   b. The Course Coordinator will plan the benchmarking processes to be implemented in conjunction with the Head of School.
   c. The benchmarking processes will involve a number of strategies. At least one strategy must be undertaken and reported annually.
   d. All benchmarking institutions/partners must be approved by the University or the Head of School.
   e. Schools will keep records of all benchmarking activities undertaken in each course.
   f. The outcomes of benchmarking strategies will be shown in the Annual Course Report and in subsequent School Reviews.

2. Benchmarking Strategies
   The following strategies can be used by Schools when benchmarking courses and course outcomes:

   a. Course Accreditation
      Formal/professional accreditation from an agency/professional organisation for a course and/or major.

   b. Course Mapping
      Course mapping involves a comparison of the planned outcomes and components of a course with a similar course at another university or institution selected and used for benchmarking activities.

   c. CEQ/GDS Ranking
      Benchmarking with the CEQ/GDS data involves the determination of a ranking for the course in the various elements of CEQ/GDS instrument against other universities.

   d. NATBES Data
      The National Benchmarking System for Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations (DEEWR) Higher Education Statistics. Data collected centrally providing benchmarking indices and results across a range of course related activities and outcomes.

   e. Unit Mapping
      Unit mapping involves the comparison of the outcomes and content of a unit(s) in a course with those from similar units in courses at another university or institution selected and used for benchmarking activities.

   f. Unit Moderation
      This activity involves external moderations of learning outcomes through the external review and marking of assessment scripts from selected units by teachers of comparable units in courses at another university or institution selected for benchmarking activities.

   g. Formal Employer Feedback
      This strategy involves the use of formal reports obtained from employer(s) describing capabilities of ECU graduates in relation to planned course outcomes and graduates from similar courses in other institutions.