Briefing Paper – Key Outcomes from the 2013 Australian Graduate Survey (AGS) of Deakin 2012 Graduates

1. Background

The Australian Graduate Survey (AGS) is conducted annually and seeks to find out about the employment and further study activities of new higher education graduates around four months after the completion of their qualifications. It also surveys graduates about their perceptions of the quality of the course they have completed.

This paper provides a brief overview of some preliminary analysis from the 2013 survey of 2012 graduates. Analysis here relates primary to Deakin data as only limited national outcomes are presently available. Detailed comparative national and state outcomes will be computed upon receipt of the national dataset if this becomes available in 2014. Further analysis of the Deakin data will be presented to the Teaching and Learning Committee in 2014. Further detailed information on Deakin AGS data is also available through the University’s Cognos reporting tool.

In 2013, the Australian Graduate Survey (AGS) was distributed to 9,514 graduates. Valid responses were received from 5,468 graduates, giving a response rate of 57.5 per cent overall. This outcome represents a significant improvement on 2012 where a 53% response rate was achieved. The response rate for domestic graduates in 2013 was 64.8%.

2. Employment

Figure 1 below shows the percentage of domestic bachelor graduates, available for full time work, who were in full time work at the time of the survey by Faculty and overall for 2008-13.

Figure 1. Domestic Graduates in Full-Time Work 2008-2013

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Faculty</th>
<th>2008</th>
<th>2009</th>
<th>2010</th>
<th>2011</th>
<th>2012</th>
<th>2013</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Arts &amp; Edu</td>
<td>83%</td>
<td>74%</td>
<td>69%</td>
<td>68%</td>
<td>70%</td>
<td>64%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B&amp;L</td>
<td>86%</td>
<td>81%</td>
<td>78%</td>
<td>77%</td>
<td>73%</td>
<td>68%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health</td>
<td>88%</td>
<td>83%</td>
<td>81%</td>
<td>76%</td>
<td>78%</td>
<td>71%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SEBE</td>
<td>81%</td>
<td>70%</td>
<td>69%</td>
<td>67%</td>
<td>59%</td>
<td>61%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deakin</td>
<td>85%</td>
<td>78%</td>
<td>74%</td>
<td>72%</td>
<td>71%</td>
<td>67%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Sixty seven per cent of Deakin domestic bachelor graduates were working full time. This outcome extends the long term decline in full-time employment evident since 2008. The comparable national figure for graduate employment was 71.3%, down from 76.1% in 2012 and 76.3% in 2011.

Deakin’s employment outcomes of 67% compares with 68.5% of graduates in full time employment for Victorian providers overall.

3. Course Experience

Figures 2 to 4 show outcomes for the Course Experience Questionnaire (CEQ) by Faculty for all Bachelor graduates.

Figure 2. Domestic and International Bachelor Graduates – Good Teaching Scale (GTS) 2011-2013 (percent agree)

Figure 3. Domestic and International Bachelor Graduates – Generic Skills Scale (GSS) 2011-2013 (percent agree)
There was little change across the three years of AGS data reported in graduates’ perceptions of the overall quality of their course, the standard of teaching, or the skills obtained in their studies.

In 2013 the Faculty of Business and Law once again received the lowest percentage agree score on the Good Teaching Scale whilst the Faculty of Arts and Education had the highest percentage agree score.

In the last two years the Faculty of Health was seen by its graduates as best in providing a grounding in the items measured by the Generic Skills Scale. These skills include decision-making and problem solving, written communication skills and planning and analytic skills.

Deakin retains high levels of graduates (87%) who “agree” or “strongly agree” with the OSI item: “Overall, I am satisfied with the quality of this course”.

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