

What happened @ Academic Board

8 October 2025

1. FAREWELL

- A sincere thank you is once again extended to Dr Chris Kilby for all his hard work. Dr Hayden will now be taking over this role. The Institute wishes Dr Kilby all the very best for the future
- Dr Janine McGuinness will also be retiring from the Institute and was thanked for her valuable contribution

2. KEY DECISIONS/ACTIONS BY THE ACADEMIC BOARD

- Honorary Appointments
 - The Board unanimously approved the Honorary Appointments of Dr Chris Kilby and Simon Katterl to the Institute
- Course Standards Committee
 - It was noted that the documents submitted to the Course Standards Committee for the Graduate Diploma of Trauma Informed Care were not approved and that this proposal should be resubmitted to the next Course Standards Committee on 5 November 2025
- Learning Access Plans
 - It was agreed that the wording in relation to extensions under Learning Access Plans (LAPs) would be changed
 - The extension procedure currently states 14 calendar days. This will be changed to **10 business days**

3. STAFF REPRESENTATIVE UPDATES

- Assessment Returns
 - It was noted that the assessment turnaround time will remain at three weeks
 - Prof Linda Byrne advised that if staff are having difficulties with this turnaround time for assessments, to please contact her and she will arrange additional resourcing

4. STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE UPDATES

- Lecture Content
 - The Board were advised that some students are concerned about format of lecture content in some specified units in the Graduate Diploma and its accessibility
 - It was noted that the structure of some units have been redesigned to accommodate a universal design approach
 - Prof Byrne stressed that student concerns were being addressed and that the institute take very seriously any student dissatisfaction
 - Dr Melissa Hayden has spoken with Course Coordinators and they are actively involved and aware of the necessary actions and approaches to improve engagement
- Assessment Structure
 - Some students have expressed concern in the Graduate Diploma, regarding the structure of assessments and limited opportunities for developing independent skills
 - Prof Simon Crowe emphasised the importance of delivering this program in accordance with the course requirements



- It was noted that while some units allow greater autonomy than others, the structure of these units ensures mid-year entrants receive the same foundational skills as their peers
- Prof Byrne said that the Institute does its best to accommodate students and that organisationally, managing a mid-year intake presents challenges, as students often feel less prepared
- It was reported that students have praised the decolonisation of the curriculum, describing it as more contemporary compared to other higher education providers

5. REPORT FROM THE DEAN

- Redesign of Psychology Pathways
 - The Psychology Board of Australia survey has opened and the institute has been asked to give a response in relation to the redesign
 - Work is in progress in relation to the Institute's formulation and there will be an Institute response. Individual responses to the survey are also encouraged to participate

6. SHORT COURSES – VET

- The short courses are currently performing very well.
- Next year, the Institute will be focusing more on 'train the trainer' initiatives, which will help build both capacity and capability across the organisation

7. RESEARCH UPDATE

- Publications
 - There are 32 publications recorded for 2025 with solid impact factors
 - Ass. Prof Paul Jenkinson will be focusing more on strategy next year with the intention of promoting 'slow science' which encourages publishing in quality journals over quantity of publications
 - Moving forward staff research allocations will be assessed in relation to their work fraction and considerations are in place to account for the ebb and flow of output across a three-year period
- Research Conference
 - The research conference held in August was very successful. Adam Bourne, the keynote speaker presented on different areas of psychology, diversity and alternative pathways
 - The panel consisted of Cairnmillar staff, who were thanked for their contribution
- Seed Funding
 - There were two rounds of Seed Funding, with a total of five submissions. All were extremely high quality and were funded, totalling \$28,000
- Seminar Series
 - There have been 13 seminars delivered this year, featuring both internal and external presenters
 - Seminars are now being planned for 2026
- Data Bank



- With the growing number of students and a need for data to support their projects, Ass. Prof Jenkinson is in discussion with HREC about future-proofing research processes to accommodate the increased number of projects
- Future capacity building is intended and the Institute is exploring ways to utilise data for Honours and Masters students
- The Institute intends to develop projects that extend beyond individual student work to form a broader research program with increased mentorship and support

8. REPORT FROM STUDENT SERVICES

- 2024 Graduate Outcomes and Student Experience
 - The Graduate Outcome Survey response rate was 48%, higher than the national average
 - Overall student satisfaction response rate was 85% which was above the national average
 - Overall experience at the institute was rated very positively with ratings exceeding the national average
 - Overall employment outcomes were 91%, which is in line with the national average
 - In terms of median salary, students graduating from the Institute are receiving higher salaries compared to other psychology graduates
 - 81.6% of graduates reported that they felt well prepared for employment and that the course had prepared them effectively
 - Qualitative feedback highlighted satisfaction with the quality of teaching, the supportive approach of the Institute and the practical engagement that aligned with professional practice
 - It was noted that 100% of undergraduate students rated their experience at the Institute positively. This rating exceeded those of both university and non-university providers.

9. STUDENT LEARNING SUPPORT

- Student Support Webpage
 - An intern from Deakin University is currently assisting in the development of a student support resources webpage
- Zahra Ditta's backfill position is currently being advertised as she is going on maternity leave

10. MEETINGS IN 2025

- Wednesday 12 February
- Wednesday 16 April
- Wednesday 4 June
- Wednesday 13 August
- Wednesday 8 October
- Wednesday 19 November