



Message from the CEO and ED

#2 – February 27, 2025

Congratulations to **Greg** and **Beth** on their recent publication (audit) – **Grievance and Complaint Handling at AGE** (v2 January 2025).



GRIEVANCE AND COMPLAINT HANDLING AT AGE

Greg Whateley
Elizabeth Woollacott

v2
January 2025

The full paper is available at - [87330e_e6f5ec3712334c9fb8be7ba04c233c7b.pdf](#)

This is another important piece of work on a matter of significance in relation to both the *HESF Threshold Standards* and the *National Code of Practice*.

AGE has in place a comprehensive and benchmarked policy and procedure relating to this domain - [87330e_368148bf3e814f3bb14d392b01c66a7e.pdf](#) - most recently refreshed in March 2024.

This is another good example of scholarship (one of many elements). For more about Scholarship at AGE see -

Scholarship at AGE - [87330e_b5d6caffc17c434495912c99ce3acd47.pdf](#)

Academic Scholarship Policy - [Academic Scholarship Policy](#)

Academic Scholarship Procedure - [Academic Scholarship Procedure \(S2\)](#)

Scholarship can take on many forms - [6113ad_2887992fd3a440a4bca4cbcb6414de4f.pdf](#)

Congratulations to **Christopher** on his recent blog (31.01.2025) – **Building the Composer's Sanctuary** - *Musicum20* (2025)

Building the Composer's Sanctuary

Christopher McLeod
January 2025

The Artist's studio is a magical place. It beckons the muse's lips to kiss the ears of the creative force at play. For within those walls is a form of gestation. The gestation of creative ideas, coming to the fore from the ethereal realms of the universe. Though cloaked in mystery, the Artist's studio is more than a mythos. It imbues within the creator a pull towards excellence and creativity. Driven. It births the ideas and concepts from within the four walls of that sanctuary.

The full article can be viewed at - [6113ad_69abfafbccea4fd89871632a6466d67f.pdf](#)

This is another good example of scholarship (one of many elements). For more about Scholarship at AGE see -

Scholarship at AGE - [87330e_b5d6caffc17c434495912c99ce3acd47.pdf](#)

Academic Scholarship Policy - [Academic Scholarship Policy](#)

Academic Scholarship Procedure - [Academic Scholarship Procedure \(S2\)](#)

Scholarship can take on many forms - [6113ad_2887992fd3a440a4bca4cbcb6414de4f.pdf](#)

The most recent **Student Feedback on Units Survey - SFUs** - (Summer 2024/2025) has been completed and the result is an outstanding - **4.54/5**.

Survey Questions		SP1 2025
Q1	The subject provided useful knowledge and skills	4.67
Q2	The learning outcomes were achievable	4.33
Q3	The subject workload was manageable	4.00
Q4	The subject helped to develop relevant professional skills such as problem solving and critical	4.33
Q5	The lecturer was well prepared for each class	4.50
Q6	The lecturer provided useful feedback	5.00
Q7	The lecturer had a good knowledge of the subject matter	5.00
Q8	The lecturer used e-learning resources eg smartboard moodle in a way that aided learning in the	4.33
Q9	The lecturer was available to discuss learning problems outside of class time	4.83
Q10	The assessment requirements were clearly explained	4.33
Q11	Overall the teaching in the subject was of a high quality	4.67
AVERAGE		4.54
Responses		0.60

There are very few programs across the country that can boast such a good outcome - so *our teaching team needs to be congratulated*.

This was based on a 60% return - which is also impressive (most schools are happy with 40%+). This is an independent survey conducted by an independent agency.

Each semester AGE conducts these surveys, and the data is very useful as evidence in satisfying the HESF Threshold Standards. The data is also used to highlight key areas of attention moving forward. *Q3 would suggest some consideration*.



A special thank you to **Dr Andrew West** for his independent work for us - he created the survey, collated the results - and summarised accordingly.

The most recent **Staff Survey** (Summer 2024/2025) has been completed, and the overall result is – **3.77/5** – a reasonable outcome with ample opportunity to improve – the Strategic Intent is 4.

Survey Questions		SP1 2025
Q1	You are provided with the tools and resources to do your job well	3.14
Q2	Your job requirements are clearly communicated and goals and strategies are clearly defined	3.43
Q3	You feel encouraged to come up with new and better ways of doing things	4.00
Q4	Your supervisor visibly demonstrates a commitment to quality	4.71
Q5	You are satisfied with the level of involvement in decisions that directly affect your work?	3.14
Q6	AGE does a good job of keeping employees informed about matters affecting your work?	3.71
Q7	Overall, you are satisfied with your job?	4.29
Average		3.77
Number of Responses		7 of 8

This was based on an 88% return - which is impressive (most schools are happy with 60%+). This is an independent survey conducted by an independent agency.

Each semester AGE conducts these surveys, and the data is very useful as evidence in satisfying the HESF Threshold Standards. The data is also used to highlight key areas of attention moving forward. Q1, Q2, Q5, Q6 *provide some direction towards improvement*.

Staff were also asked for some qualitative feedback which will be analysed and adjustments made where possible and feasible. Concerns were expressed around overload, flexibility, resources, fit out, and trust.



A special thank you to **Dr Andrew West** for his independent work for us - he created the survey, collated the results - and summarised accordingly.

Congratulations to **Greg** and **Beth** on their recent paper (03.02.2025) **Academic Governance at AGE** –



ACADEMIC GOVERNANCE AT AGE

Greg Whateley
Elizabeth Woollacott

V2
February 2025

The full paper can be viewed at - [87330e_c7125562ff394e46bb22c427c4bb5b34.pdf](#)

This is another good example of scholarship (one of many elements). For more about Scholarship at AGE see -

Scholarship at AGE - [87330e_b5d6caffc17c434495912c99ce3acd47.pdf](#)

Academic Scholarship Policy - [Academic Scholarship Policy](#)

Academic Scholarship Procedure - [Academic Scholarship Procedure \(S2\)](#)

Scholarship can take on many forms - [6113ad_2887992fd3a440a4bca4cbcb6414de4f.pdf](#)

Strategic thinking is a key aspect of what we do - and developing a **strategic intent** with inbuilt measures/ KPIs is essential. These are in turn used to measure performance and enable effective and efficient reporting across the organisation.

To this end I have developed the first run at a **Strategic Intent 2025-2028 –**



A STRATEGIC INTENT 2025 - 2028

Work Plan

January 2025

Greg Whateley

The full paper can be viewed at - [87330e_55363bb9b38846eda6474ff77dd94221.pdf](https://www.aue.edu.au/87330e_55363bb9b38846eda6474ff77dd94221.pdf)

Over the next few months, I will be asking various stakeholders to consider the projections and either support them - or recommend changes. By mid-2025 we should have a stable set of measures to move forward with.

There are a couple of accompanying documents that might be useful for illumination -

Strategically thinking (2024) - [6113ad_d5adbeaa793e400dbe95d36f97983219.pdf](https://www.aue.edu.au/6113ad_d5adbeaa793e400dbe95d36f97983219.pdf)

Strategic intent - knowing which way to go (2025)
- [6113ad_f3f2ae27530649df89a0a61fca367bec.pdf](https://www.aue.edu.au/6113ad_f3f2ae27530649df89a0a61fca367bec.pdf)

Executive Management Committee Meeting - February 11, 2025

The next EMC meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, February 11 10am-2pm. This is a F2F meeting of the team on the North Melbourne Campus and will cover key topics (though not exhaustive) -

Finalisation of F2F timetable

Finalisation of staffing and schedule for the Virtual offerings

Postgraduate Social Work proposal

Committee System in operation

Communication Vehicles

Other Business

The meeting will be chaired by **Emeritus Professor Greg Whateley**

EMC Meetings for 2025 are tentatively scheduled for *Tuesdays - March 11; April 15; May 13; June 17; July 15; August 12; September 16; October 14; November 11; and December 16 (subject to variation as required).*

Congratulations to **Christopher** on his recent blog (04.02.2025) – **Building the Composer’s Sanctuary – Equipment - Musicum20 (2025)**

Building the Composer’s sanctuary: Equipment

Christopher McLeod
February 2025

To create is to imbue upon an audience that which is the human condition. A gentle preposition, the extraordinary expression of something innately familiar. An inherent supposition of that profound and sacred place within the compositional process. The very moment in which is birthed the gestational ideals of the work. Profoundly familiar to the listener and composer alike. It has existed always. And always has it existed. A gentle manifestation of the universe in a physical form. Made for the enjoyment of humanity. Created in the sanctuary of the composer’s studio.

The full article can be viewed at - [6113ad_34cd8672b6c646c49c9c85549f0207a7.pdf](#)

This is the second article in a series associated with setting up a physical studio that provides the contemporary composer with an effective working place as well as a sanctuary.

This is another good example of scholarship (one of many elements). For more about Scholarship at AGE see -

Scholarship at AGE - [87330e_b5d6caffc17c434495912c99ce3acd47.pdf](#)

Academic Scholarship Policy - [Academic Scholarship Policy](#)

Academic Scholarship Procedure - [Academic Scholarship Procedure \(S2\)](#)

Scholarship can take on many forms - [6113ad_2887992fd3a440a4bca4cbcb6414de4f.pdf](#)

Capturing scholarship at AGE - [87330e_456bf6a9c2fb45738f1ae2c9bcf079c6.pdf](#)

The first **AGE Academic Board** meeting *for 2025* is scheduled for next week - Wednesday, February 12 at 10am - the meeting is hybrid with some members on campus and others online. Agenda and associated materials have been sent out – and a starring approach is being used.

The agenda is comprehensive -

- Academic Board Terms of Reference - [87330e_6e698575ff2c4877b4e177737123fbb6.pdf](#)
- Academic Governance at AGE - [87330e_c7125562ff394e46bb22c427c4bb5b34.pdf](#)
- National Code Audit - [87330e_28870154e4e34117857ebf6367d197af.pdf](#)
- Threshold Standards Audit
- Committee System - [87330e_6e698575ff2c4877b4e177737123fbb6.pdf](#)
- Academic Integrity - [Academic Integrity and Misconduct Policy \(S1\)](#)
- Scholarship - [87330e_b5d6caffc17c434495912c99ce3acd47.pdf](#) and [87330e_456bf6a9c2fb45738f1ae2c9bcf079c6.pdf](#)
- Academic Policies - [Policies & Procedures | Guild Music Copy](#)
- Academic Risk - [Proposed AGE Risk Register](#)
- Staff Qualifications and Quality - [Staff Qualifications, Recruitment and Appointment Policy and Procedure \(V1 Est 2024\).docx](#)
- AI Response - [AGE RFI REQ07953 Statement Response.docx](#)
- Work Plan and Strategic Intent - [87330e_55363bb9b38846eda6474ff77dd94221.pdf](#) and [6113ad_f3f2ae27530649df89a0a61fca367bec.pdf](#) and <https://www.teqsa.gov.au/sites/default/files/2024-11/Gen-AI-strategies-emerging-practice-toolkit.pdf>
- Social Work update
- Early Childhood Education update
- Re-registration/re-accreditation update
- Student Feedback on Units

Dr Tim Weir (external) will chair the meeting - ably supported by **Professor Elizabeth Woollacott** (internal Secretary)

Membership of the AGE Academic Board includes –



Dr Tim Weir (External Chair)



Dr Laura Hougaz – Independent member



Dr David Morgan – Independent member



Associate Professor Jordan Murray (ex-officio) - internal



Emeritus Professor Greg Whateley (ex-officio) - internal



Professor Beth Woollacott (Secretary) - internal

For member profiles see - [Leadership | Guild Music Copy](#)

The current *Academic Board 'Terms of Reference'* can be viewed at
- [87330e_6e698575ff2c4877b4e177737123fbb6.pdf](#) - see pp20-25.

The Academic Board is a Standing Committee of the AGE Board of Directors and plays an essential role in the oversight of matters academic - supporting the work of the Executive Dean in particular.

Congratulations to **Greg** and **Beth** on their recent publication (05.02.2025) – **Corporate Governance at AGE** (v3).



CORPORATE GOVERNANCE AT AGE

Greg Whateley
Elizabeth Woollacott

v3
October 2024

The full paper is available at - [87330e_100969e2681f400b8f95d1265eb99678.pdf](#)

This is another important piece of work on a matter of significance in relation to both the *HESF Threshold Standards* and the *National Code of Practice*.

This is also another good example of scholarship (one of many elements). For more about Scholarship at AGE see -

Scholarship at AGE - [87330e_b5d6caffc17c434495912c99ce3acd47.pdf](#)

Academic Scholarship Policy - [Academic Scholarship Policy](#)

Academic Scholarship Procedure - [Academic Scholarship Procedure \(S2\)](#)

Scholarship can take on many forms - [6113ad_2887992fd3a440a4bca4cbcb6414de4f.pdf](#)

Capturing Scholarship at AGE 2024 - [87330e_456bf6a9c2fb45738f1ae2c9bcf079c6.pdf](#)

Threshold Standards Update

I am delighted to report that AGE is compliant with the all-important **HESF Threshold Standards**.

The most recent audit (initiated in October 2024 and v2 finalised yesterday) provides the necessary evidence to demonstrate that ALL standards are being met. Naturally, there is always space for improvement - but compliance is vital.



AGE HIGHER EDUCATION STANDARDS FRAMEWORK (THRESHOLD STANDARDS) AUDIT

Greg Whateley
Elizabeth Woollacott

V2
February 2025

The full paper is available at - [87330e_7d589435f8f148209d7cf216bda4eec8.pdf](#)

Standards 1, 2,3,5,6 and 7 are addressed - Standard 4 is not relevant to AGE at this stage.

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We will conduct **regular reviews/audits** - and I encourage all stakeholders to walk through the document and if you spot errors, deficiencies etc - please let me know and we will consistently update the document. This is a 'living document', so to speak - change and continuous improvement are part of the process.

Congratulations to **Jordan** on his professional development program this week (*Tuesday, February 11, 2025*) - **Learning and Teaching (University of Melbourne)**



The program is comprehensive with useful intel for AGE including key issues such as -

Academic Integrity

Library

Artificial Intelligence (GenAI)

Diversity and Inclusion

Accessible Thinking

Warranted Assessment

AGE has in place a number of policies, procedures (as well as audits) in a number of these spaces including -

Academic Integrity

[Academic Integrity and Misconduct Policy \(S1\)](#)

Artificial Intelligence

[AGE RFI REQ07953_Statement Response.docx](#)

Diversity and Inclusion

[87330e_760e080141f0421f9646202b26212b50.pdf](#)

[87330e_9385c79be2ec4230a13b5b618e37967e.pdf](#)

Assessment

[87330e_cfba293f0ce2414989ab65162266ff69.pdf](#)

This is another good example of scholarship. For more about Scholarship at AGE see -

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Academic Scholarship Policy - [Academic Scholarship Policy](#)

Academic Scholarship Procedure - [Academic Scholarship Procedure \(S2\)](#)

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Capturing Scholarship at AGE 2024 - [87330e_456bf6a9c2fb45738f1ae2c9bcf079c6.pdf](#)

Timetable – F2F program – Semester 1, 2025

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
8.00-11.00		Group A Music as Culture C McL Room 1.1	Group B Professional Studies JM Room 1.1	Group B Music as Culture C McL Room 1.1	
11.00-14.00		Group A Pedagogy BW Room 1.1	Group B Pedagogy BW Room 1.1	<u>1pm-4pm*</u> Group A Professional Studies JM Room 1.1	
14.30-17.30		Group A Musicianship C McL Room 1.1	Group B Musicianship C McL Room 1.1		

*by special arrangement – Thursdays 1-4pm

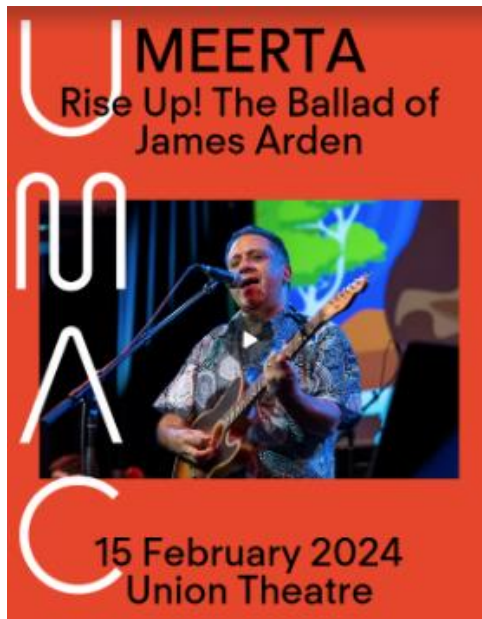
Level 1, North Melbourne Campus – Room 1.1

Teaching Team – **Associate Professor Christopher McLeod** (C McL); **Professor Beth Woollacott** (BW); **Associate Professor Jordan Murray** (JM)

Student Support - **Priyanka Deswal**

The S1, 2025 Academic Key Dates Calendar can be viewed at - [Key Dates | Guild Music Copy](#)

Congratulations to **Jordan** on a recent project that he is closely involved with - *Meerta - Rise Up! The Ballad of James Arden* (February 2025) - and has scored the musical arrangements.



The performance is with Gunditjmara/Kokatha singer-songwriter, **David Arden** and his professional band. The performance is augmented by string, wind and brass students from the Melbourne Conservatorium of Music - at Melbourne University. This free concert will take place this Saturday February 15 at the Union Theatre on the Parkville campus.

MEERTA

MUSICIANS

BAND

- David Arden
Lead Artist and Director / Vocals / Guitar
- Daniel Jauregui
Musical Director / Vocals / Guitar
- Chris Cameron
Drums
- Jordan Murray
Orchestra/Lead and Music Notation / Horns
- Jake Amy
Key
- Rodrigo Zarate Gallardo
Bass
- Emma Volard
Viola

WOODWIND

- Sam Bartholomew
Baritone and Tenor
- Tom English
Alto

HORNS

- Jahong O'Farrell
Trumpet
- Yael Marks
Trumpet

STRINGS

- Bailey Clennell, Kieron Fenner, Sophia Hanis,
Sunni-Rae Hesley Morris, Sophia Shaw
Violin
- Sonia Freiburg
Cello

For further information see - https://www.canva.com/design/DAGeqcJ5SJg/qTmi-hTZuzu9Y8bskx3khw/watch?utm_content=DAGeqcJ5SJg&utm_campaign=designshare&utm_medium=link2&utm_source=uniquelinks&utm_id=haf828b1e02

Jordan also performed with **Uncle Dave Arden's** band on the weekend at **Treaty Day Out** and will embark on a series of weekend regional tours mid-year.

This is another excellent example of scholarship. For more detail regarding scholarship see

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Scholarship at AGE - [87330e_b5d6caffc17c434495912c99ce3acd47.pdf](#)

Academic Scholarship Policy - [Academic Scholarship Policy](#)

Academic Scholarship Procedure - [Academic Scholarship Procedure \(S2\)](#)

Scholarship can take on many forms - [6113ad_2887992fd3a440a4bca4cbcb6414de4f.pdf](#)

Capturing Scholarship at AGE 2024 - [87330e_456bf6a9c2fb45738f1ae2c9bcf079c6.pdf](#)

Congratulations to **Christopher** on his recent blog (12.02.2025) – **Building the Composer’s Sanctuary – Colour, texture and sound - Musicum20 (2025)**

Building the Composer’s sanctuary: Colour + Texture + Sound

Christopher McLeod

February 2025

There is a place we go within the mind's eye. A place where time is inconsequential. Where textural intricacies and sonic soundscapes shape the ear. Caressing its innermost recesses. To mix and master this unwieldy beast. Alone in this acoustically treated space. All the world is here. And yet no one is here. Quiet and noisy. Sound with its colour. Meandering towards the final mix. Never perfect. Never finished. But always done.

The full article can be viewed at - [6113ad_d1151c22dd1d47b69aa0e68385bd09f1.pdf](#)

This is the third article in a series associated with setting up a physical studio that provides the contemporary composer with an effective working place as well as a 'sanctuary'.

This is another good example of scholarship (one of many elements). For more about Scholarship at AGE see -

-

Scholarship at AGE - [87330e_b5d6caffc17c434495912c99ce3acd47.pdf](#)

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Capturing scholarship at AGE - [87330e_456bf6a9c2fb45738f1ae2c9bcf079c6.pdf](#)

Today I received a letter from our national regulator - TEQSA - signed by both the *Acting Chief Commissioner* and the *CEO*. It is poignant in many ways and asks all of us (across the Sector) to be mindful of *student safety and well-being*.



TEQSA

It is well worth reading - and I have highlighted some key issues -

'Ensuring student safety and wellbeing in higher education

Dear Emeritus Professor Whateley,

With the academic year commencing and providers preparing to welcome thousands of new and returning students, we want to reiterate the **importance of ensuring safety and wellbeing in Australian higher education**.

As you know, last year we witnessed a disturbing increase in incidents of antisemitism, Islamophobia and racism more broadly within the Australian community. Despite the current ceasefire in the Middle East, we continue to see heightened tensions and violence. Australia's higher education sector is not immune to these tensions.

TEQSA wants to remind providers of their obligations under the *Higher Education Standards Framework (Threshold Standards) 2021* to uphold student and staff safety.

At a minimum, we expect that **providers are closely watching developments**, both nationally and within their own communities, and ensuring that they have **appropriate arrangements in place to respond to any sudden escalation of protests or outbreaks of violence**. This includes, but is not limited to, reviewing settings and permissions for events that may escalate tensions, ensuring appropriate security arrangements, maintaining effective critical incident management structures and continuing to engage with law enforcement.

TEQSA also expects that providers will ensure new and **returning students are informed about codes of conduct, support services and any other relevant institutional policies or procedures, including misconduct policies and penalties for engaging in or displaying racist behaviour (such as antisemitism and Islamophobia)**.

Consideration should be given to **the needs of at-risk students and staff** (including Jewish people, Muslim people and people from Palestinian backgrounds) to ensure

they have a safe learning and working environment. Institutions should also consider how governing bodies are kept informed about the adequacy and effectiveness of institutional policies, as well as whether those policies are being appropriately enforced.

We strongly recommend providers consider the points raised in our [Interim sector update: Regulatory expectations of providers](#) to assure safety and wellbeing on campus in relation to student protests, including:

- institutional policies and processes
- academic support and adjustment
- ensuring a safe campus, including teaching and learning spaces
- ensuring complaint and support mechanisms are accessible
- taking appropriate action in response to misconduct
- upholding freedom of speech and academic freedom.

Consultation for new TEQSA guidance

As you would be aware, TEQSA has been engaging with student groups, providers, the Special Envoy to Combat Antisemitism in Australia, the Special Envoy to Combat Islamophobia in Australia, the Race Discrimination Commissioner, the National Student Ombudsman and the CEO of Universities Australia to inform the development of new guidance.

TEQSA will open consultation with the sector for 2 new pieces of guidance on 26 February 2025. These new guidance materials relate to student grievance and complaint processes and outside actors on campus. Following this consultation, TEQSA will aim to have this **new guidance in place by April 2025**.

TEQSA will continue to update and develop guidance during the year, as other projects such as the Australian Human Rights Commission's study into racism in universities are released.'

AGE has in place a number of policies, procedures and audits that directly relate to the issues being raised - and I ask all at AGE to have a close look at them and acknowledge the level of responsibility required.

Code of conduct and shared responsibility policy
- [87330e_79eecad9b0cb4c24ae91f2625062303e.pdf](#)

Critical incident policy and procedure - [Critical Incident Policy and Procedure V1 Est 2024.docx](#)

Diversity, equity and inclusion policy and procedure
- [87330e_9385c79be2ec4230a13b5b618e37967e.pdf](#)

Information privacy policy - [Information Privacy Policy_V1 Est 2024.docx](#)

Student grievance handling policy and procedure
- [87330e_368148bf3e814f3bb14d392b01c66a7e.pdf](#)

Student support policy and procedure - [Student Support Policy](#)

and

Diversity and equity at AGE - [87330e_760e080141f0421f9646202b26212b50.pdf](#)

Grievance and complaint handling at AGE
- [87330e_e6f5ec3712334c9fb8be7ba04c233c7b.pdf](#)

Student support at AGE - [87330e_6397f81fafc54f3299e0a6e3c37667d3.pdf](#)

Threshold Standards Audit - [87330e_7d589435f8f148209d7cf216bda4eec8.pdf](#)

National Code Audit - [87330e_28870154e4e34117857ebf6367d197af.pdf](#)

Congratulations to **Jordan** on his involvement in a full day seminar on *Researcher Supervisor Registration Training* (17.02.2025)



Reminder: Graduate Researcher Supervisor Registration Training on February 17, 2025

The program (sponsored by the University of Melbourne) provides valuable insight into supervising both Masters and Doctoral students.



For more about **Dr Jordan Murray** see - [Leadership | Guild Music Copy](#)

This is another good example of scholarship (one of many elements) not to mention professional development. For more about Scholarship at AGE see -

Scholarship at AGE - [87330e_b5d6caffc17c434495912c99ce3acd47.pdf](#)

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Capturing scholarship at AGE - [87330e_456bf6a9c2fb45738f1ae2c9bcf079c6.pdf](#)

Congratulations to **Greg** on his latest article (17.02.2025) – **Strategically thinking – the next 5 years** -

Strategically thinking – the next five years

Greg Whateley

February 2025

I was recently asked to develop a strategic plan/strategic intent for a small HE provider in Melbourne Australia based on a four-year projection – to be realized at the end of the fifth year. In order to develop a decent projection – a great deal of pondering took place as I grappled with the various conditions and scenarios that were ahead (many unknown) – realizing that what I was actually doing was essentially *guesswork* – and based on an optimistic mindset that said *growth will occur – and the rest will fall into place*.

The full paper can be viewed at - [6113ad_b5c24928610c4f338eb3276bf251f487.pdf](#)

The paper has been accepted as Chapter 12 in an upcoming book titled - **The Next 5 (years)** - hopefully out in May 2025. The book will serve as the focus of the October 2025 Musicum20 symposium in London at *Trinity Laban Conservatoire of Music and Dance* - [Home | Trinity Laban](#)



For more about **Dr Greg Whateley** see - [Leadership | Guild Music Copy](#)

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Thank you to **Dr Laura Hougaz** (AGE Academic Board member and Chair, *Learning and Teaching Committee*) who found this provocative article by Tim Winkler (14.02.2025, *Future Campus*) regarding online learning/assessment – it is well worth the read –

LEAD

ONLINE INTEGRITY UNDER MICROSCOPE

By **TIM WINKLER**

TEQSA is said to have asked learning and teaching leaders to consider whether online degrees should be marked as such on testamurs, in a provocation to a closed-door meeting last week.

Sources at the meeting at the University of Sydney indicated there were 'audible gasps' at the provocation put forward by the regulator, which reportedly stated that the integrity of assessment of online degrees could no longer be guaranteed and that degrees studied online would therefore need to be tagged with what is effectively a warning label.

The meeting on the use of generative AI in learning and teaching was conducted via Chatham House rules and TEQSA have confirmed that this was a provocation, not a statement - but the fact that the national regulator could raise the inability of institutions to prevent cheating in exams for online courses as an issue has raised eyebrows.

TEQSA did not confirm the exact wording of the provocation shared at the meeting, but a spokesperson stated, "TEQSA continues to have confidence in the integrity and quality of courses offered by Australian higher education providers."

"As part of our work to understand and forecast risks, TEQSA routinely has provocation discussions and tests potential scenarios with higher education providers."

"This is a necessary part of ensuring risks are anticipated and managed. It complements and informs TEQSA's work to ensure higher education providers are well positioned to manage these risks and uphold the integrity of Australian higher education awards."

Just five years after COVID lockdowns forced Australian educators to shift thousands of courses online, any suggestion that assessment of online degrees is perceived (or measured) to be inferior to that of face-to-face or blended models has huge implications for both staff and students.

Encouraging contemplation of a sub-class of degrees where assessment integrity cannot be guaranteed as a potential future risk certainly provokes further questions in relation to university standards, degree fee setting and most importantly graduate impact.

Certainly, the higher education regulator can tick off 'starting sector conversations' as one of its KPI's.



For more about **Dr Laura Hougaz** see - [Leadership | Guild Music Copy](#)

The next meeting of the *Learning and Teaching Committee* is scheduled for Wednesday, March 12. The Terms of Reference for the Standing Committee can be viewed at - [87330e_6e698575ff2c4877b4e177737123fbb6.pdf](#) - see pp 26-29

Congratulations to **Christopher** on his recent blog (19.02.2025) – **Building the Composer’s Sanctuary – Keyboard, Desk and Peripheral** - *Musicum20* (2025)

Building the Composer’s sanctuary: Keyboard + Desk + Peripheral

Christopher McLeod
February 2025

Images flash in the form of music. Their vivid imaginations flash wild the focus of sound and texture. Alive through the touch of keys and faders. Input this music.

In the previous instalment of this series, I discussed the merits and characteristics of selecting studio monitors and acoustic sound treatment for a studio space. This instalment will delve into the selection of a MIDI controller (Keyboard), Desk, and Peripherals that will enhance a studio space.

The full article can be viewed at - [6113ad_f2268c78e7fc4516b34c8d37f13b11fd.pdf](#)

This is the fourth article in a series associated with setting up a physical studio that provides the contemporary composer with an effective working place as well as a 'sanctuary'.

This is another good example of scholarship (one of many elements). For more about Scholarship at AGE see -

Scholarship at AGE - [87330e_b5d6caffc17c434495912c99ce3acd47.pdf](#)

Academic Scholarship Policy - [Academic Scholarship Policy](#)

Academic Scholarship Procedure - [Academic Scholarship Procedure \(S2\)](#)

Scholarship can take on many forms - [6113ad_2887992fd3a440a4bca4cbcb6414de4f.pdf](#)

Capturing scholarship at AGE - [87330e_456bf6a9c2fb45738f1ae2c9bcf079c6.pdf](#)

Congratulations to **Greg** on his recent blog (19.02.2025) – **All a matter of integrity despite the mode of delivery** - *Musicum20 (2025)*

All a matter of integrity despite the mode of delivery

Greg Whateley

February 2025

I have long held the view that the mode of delivery should have options for students. I also hold the view that online learning and teaching is just as effective as face-to-face delivery – and perhaps a hybrid approach is the best option of all. Each mode has its challenges – and these need to be met head on. No single mode is superior.

The full article can be viewed at - [6113ad_78e7dc08f21d4dad9049875149d4f76e.pdf](#)

This is another good example of scholarship (one of many elements). For more about Scholarship at AGE see -

Scholarship at AGE - [87330e_b5d6caffc17c434495912c99ce3acd47.pdf](#)

Academic Scholarship Policy - [Academic Scholarship Policy](#)

Academic Scholarship Procedure - [Academic Scholarship Procedure \(S2\)](#)

Scholarship can take on many forms - [6113ad_2887992fd3a440a4bca4cbcb6414de4f.pdf](#)

Capturing scholarship at AGE - [87330e_456bf6a9c2fb45738f1ae2c9bcf079c6.pdf](#)

The next **AGE Board of Examiners** meeting is scheduled for Thursday February 27 2025 at 10am to ratify the results from *Summer Semester 2024/2025*.

The BoE is scheduled to meet three times throughout 2025 – February 27, June 19 and October 3.

Members include –



Associate Professor Jordan Murray
Chair



Associate Professor Christopher McLeod

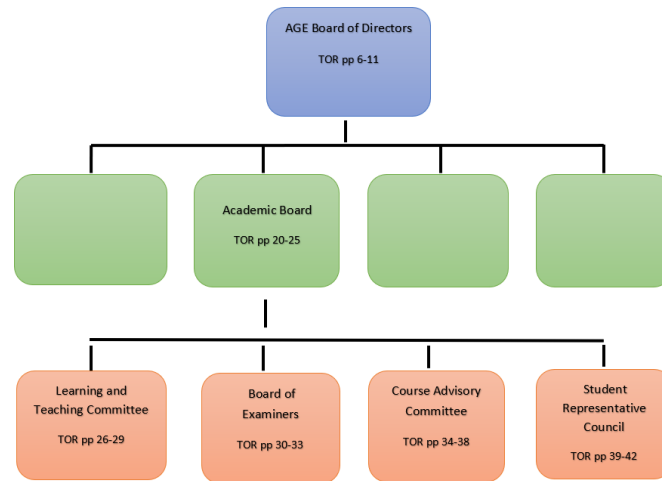


Emeritus Professor Greg Whateley
Secretary

To assist with the timelines imposed the Chair has requested that all staff teaching in the Summer Semester 2024/2025 ensure that results are sent to him – Jordan.murray@guildmusic.edu.au – by **COB Tuesday February 25** – ‘a spreadsheet of your marks for your units that include the mark for each assessment task and an overall mark.’

‘Due to small cohorts - we are expecting higher grades but, for the record, with your marks, please include any explanations for exceptionally high or low/fail marks.’

The BoE is a standing committee of the AGE Academic Board – and a report will be presented to the AB on March 26. Good academic governance is maintained at AGE and is captured in the following chart –



The Terms of Reference for the Board of Examiners can be viewed at - [87330e_6e698575ff2c4877b4e177737123fbb6.pdf](https://www.ages.edu.au/87330e_6e698575ff2c4877b4e177737123fbb6.pdf) - pp 30-33

Also see – Academic Governance at AGE - [87330e_c7125562ff394e46bb22c427c4bb5b34.pdf](https://www.ages.edu.au/87330e_c7125562ff394e46bb22c427c4bb5b34.pdf)

Schedule for online classes for Semester 1, 2025

The schedule for our online classes for Semester 1, 2025 is now available - and will be distributed to students shortly. The online offerings are coloured **mauve**

DRAFT TIMETABLE - SEMESTER ONE, 2025						
	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	
8.00am		Music as Culture 101 MUSICU101 - A Room: 1.1 Main Lecture Hall Staff member: CMC	Professional Skills 101 PROFSK101 - B Room: 1.1 Main Lecture Hall Staff member: JMU	Musicianship 101 MUSICU101 - B Room: 1.1 Main Lecture Hall Staff member: CMC		
9.00am						
10.00am						
11.00am		Pedagogy PEDAGOG101 - A Room: 1.1 Main Lecture Hall Staff member: BWO	Pedagogy PEDAGOG101 - B Room: 1.1 Main Lecture Hall Staff member: BWO			
12.00pm				PEDAGOG - RMC (ONL)		
1.00pm						
2.00pm					Professional Skills 101 PROFSK101 - A Room: 1.1 Main Lecture Hall Staff member: JMU	
3.00pm		Musicianship 101 MUSICU101 - A Room: 1.1 Main Lecture Hall Staff member: CMC	Music as Culture 101 MUSICU101 - B Room: 1.1 Main Lecture Hall Staff member: CMC			MUSIBUS - APH (ONL)
4.00pm						COMSPEC - CMC (ONL)
5.00pm						

Staff Code	Staffmember Name	Designation
JMU	Jordan Murray	On Campus
CMC	Christopher McLeod	On Campus
BWO	Beth Wellacott	On Campus
COU	Christiano Quimelli	Online
APH	Art Phillips	Online
RMC	Rachael McLeod	Online

I have executively *combined a number of units* to accommodate as many of the students as I can - hopefully not impeding their course progression. I am most grateful to the teaching staff involved for their flexibility and understanding. This also manages the cost associated with delivery considerably.

The online teaching team for S1 includes -

Associate Professor Jordan Murray

Associate Professor Christopher McLeod

Christian Quimelli

Associate Professor Art Phillips

Rachael McLeod

The online program is small - but we are attempting to ensure a positive experience for ALL students at AGE. The most recent student survey results - SFU (Student Feedback on Units) for *Summer School 2024/25* (online students only) were extremely positive - so we are hoping to maintain this level of satisfaction across the whole school moving forward.


Survey Questions		SP1 2025
Q1	The subject provided useful knowledge and skills	4.67
Q2	The learning outcomes were achievable	4.33
Q3	The subject workload was manageable	4.00
Q4	The subject helped to develop relevant professional skills such as problem solving and critical	4.33
Q5	The lecturer was well prepared for each class	4.50
Q6	The lecturer provided useful feedback	5.00
Q7	The lecturer had a good knowledge of the subject matter	5.00
Q8	The lecturer used e-learning resources eg smartboard moodle in a way that aided learning in the	4.33
Q9	The lecturer was available to discuss learning problems outside of class time	4.83
Q10	The assessment requirements were clearly explained	4.33
Q11	Overall the teaching in the subject was of a high quality	4.67
AVERAGE		4.54
Responses		0.60






We are entering a new phase (chapter) for AGE - and I remain confident that we will succeed. But, like all ventures it takes teamwork and focus - so thank you all for your ongoing support. *It really 'takes a village'*

Congratulations to Christopher on his recent creative work (25.02.2025) - **Life Trampled** - *blue sights at medium.com*

Life Trampled

What are we truly striving for?

 Christopher McLeod · Follow
Published in Blue Insights · 1 day ago

 100    




Photo by Ramon Perucho: <https://www.pexels.com/photo/lone-bare-tree-on-rocky-hillside-in-winter-30819731/>

The full work can be viewed at - <https://medium.com/p/b716a3d1a24e>

Scholarship can take on many forms - [6113ad_2887992fd3a440a4bca4cbcb6414de4f.pdf](#)

Also worth reading -

Scholarship at AGE - [87330e_b5d6caffc17c434495912c99ce3acd47.pdf](#)

Academic Scholarship Policy - [Academic Scholarship Policy](#)

Academic Scholarship Procedure - [Academic Scholarship Procedure \(S2\)](#)

Board of Examiners' Report (Results) - Summer School 2024/2025

AGE does not internally moderate results *at this stage* – that is - we do not adjust (normalise) at the macro level to fit a formula or curve (unlike many Universities and IHEs). *Rather*, we encourage staff to create sensible and appropriate assessments and mark accordingly. The moderation takes place through *experienced staff* (who teach at other like institutions); an *external moderator* who looks at our grade distributions and samples of assessment across the major programs; an *HEPP-QN benchmarking activity* that provides further external moderation; *internal comparing* where/if more than one teacher actually teaches a single subject; and through a careful *national/international benchmarking* exercise that currently compares our distributions with a number of other HEPs and iHEPs.

The moderation is thorough and appropriate.

Our current assessment and grading policy and procedure is robust - [87330e_cfba293f0ce2414989ab65162266ff69.pdf](https://www.ferret.net/87330e_cfba293f0ce2414989ab65162266ff69.pdf)

The **Board of Examiners** (*a standing committee of the Academic Board*) convened on Thursday, February 27, 2025 and considered the Summer School 2024/25 grade distributions post final assessments.

Membership of this Board for 2025 includes–



Associate Professor Jordan Murray

Chair



Associate Professor Christopher McLeod



Emeritus Professor Greg Whateley

Secretary

The outcomes are somewhat skewed given the small class sizes and student numbers. This will no doubt change given the upcoming intake of 70 or so new students on campus from mid-March 2025.

The aggregated progression rate for SS, 2024/25 is 90% (10% above the Strategic Intent target) – see - [87330e_55363bb9b38846eda6474ff77dd94221.pdf](#) - see p10.

The distributions for the Bachelor of Music program are presented in table and pie chart forms by **Associate Professor Jordan Murray** and then superimposed over a national/international benchmarking project conducted by **Professor Ian Bofinger** (AMPA) and **Emeritus Professor Greg Whateley** (AGE) in Mannheim, Germany in late 2016 and continues to be updated with more recent input. A recent grade distribution benchmarking activity by HEPP-QN in which **Dr Andy West** participated has also contributed to the comparative graph.

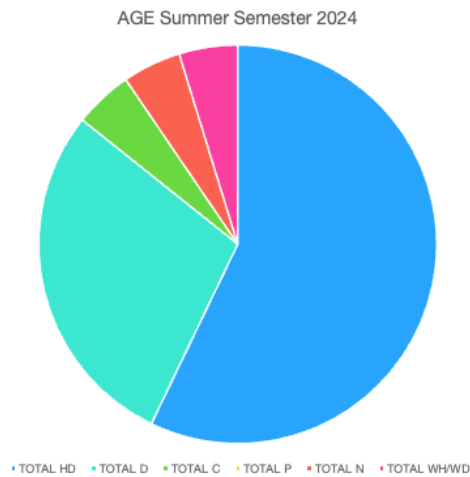
This type of benchmarking is critical to our quality assurance.

We want to take this opportunity to thank all AGE staff for an efficient turnaround of results for Summer 2024/25. This speedy marking and resolution have contributed to a very smooth ratification of grades, recording of outcomes and release of grades from Friday – February 28 2025. **Great Effort! Great team work!**

The Summer, 2024/25 grade distributions are captured in table form –

Grade	Bachelor of Music (%)
HD	57
D	28
C	5
P	0
F (N)	5
Other (WH/WD)	5

The Summer, 2024/25 grade distributions are captured in graph form –

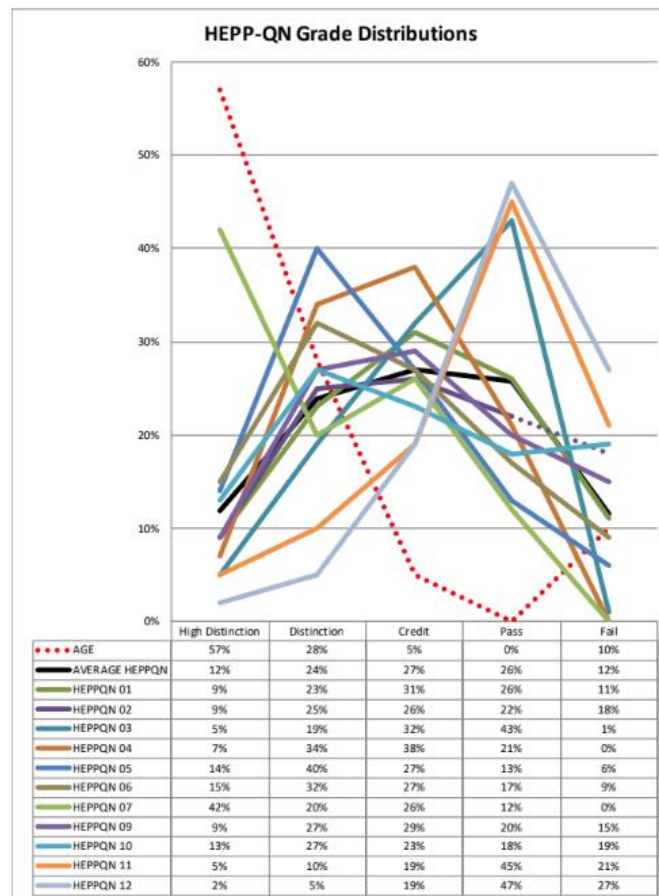


Further graphic representations are provided - including a national/international institute specific comparison made possible by **Bofinger and Whateley** (since 2016) - the broken red line represents AGE -

Bachelor of Music



and **West** (since 2017) and an aggregated AGE outcome against HEPP-QN members (also highlighted with broken red line) –



This indicates a Progression Rate of 90% (10% above target)

We extend our thanks to all involved in the process. This is another good set of consistent outcomes.

A special thankyou to **Priyanka Deswal** and **Associate Professor Jordan Murray (Internal)** for data capture, **Professor Ian Bofinger** (Independent) for his work on the national/international comparative data presentation as well as **Dr Andrew West** (Independent) for sharing further national data.

This report will be presented to the next Academic Board meeting on Wednesday, March 26, 2025.



AGE will open the North Melbourne campus from Tuesday March 4 –

9am-5pm - Mondays and Fridays

8am – 6pm - Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays

The official opening of the North Melbourne Campus of AGE (376 Victoria Street) will be an important new opportunity for the school as it welcomes F2F international students.

To date AGE (previously AGME) was a virtual entity offering a Bachelor of Music online only.

The refreshed premises will provide the opportunity to provide a F2F option with c70 students commencing formal studies in the week starting March 17.



For more about **AGE** see - [School | Australian Guild of Music Education | Australia](#)



February 2025