

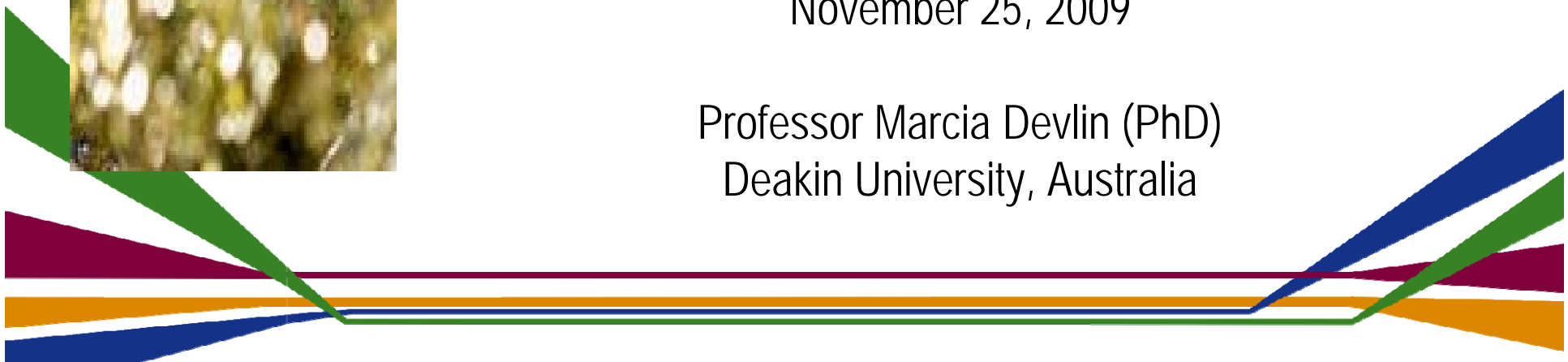


Student Engagement in Australian Tertiary Education: What role for libraries?

CAVAL Reference Interest Group
Melbourne

November 25, 2009

Professor Marcia Devlin (PhD)
Deakin University, Australia



Overview



The new Australian tertiary education context

The notion of student engagement

The role(s) of libraries in supporting student engagement



The Australian context



Review of Australian Higher Education

Final Report



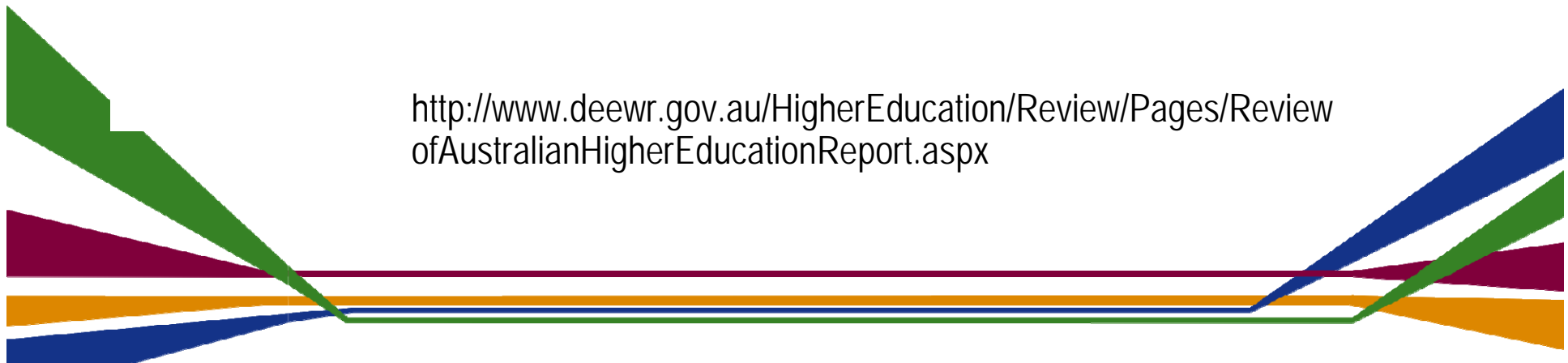
December 2008

Review of higher education –
The 'Bradley Review'

Expert Panel's final report
released on

17 December 2008

<http://www.deewr.gov.au/HigherEducation/Review/Pages/ReviewofAustralianHigherEducationReport.aspx>



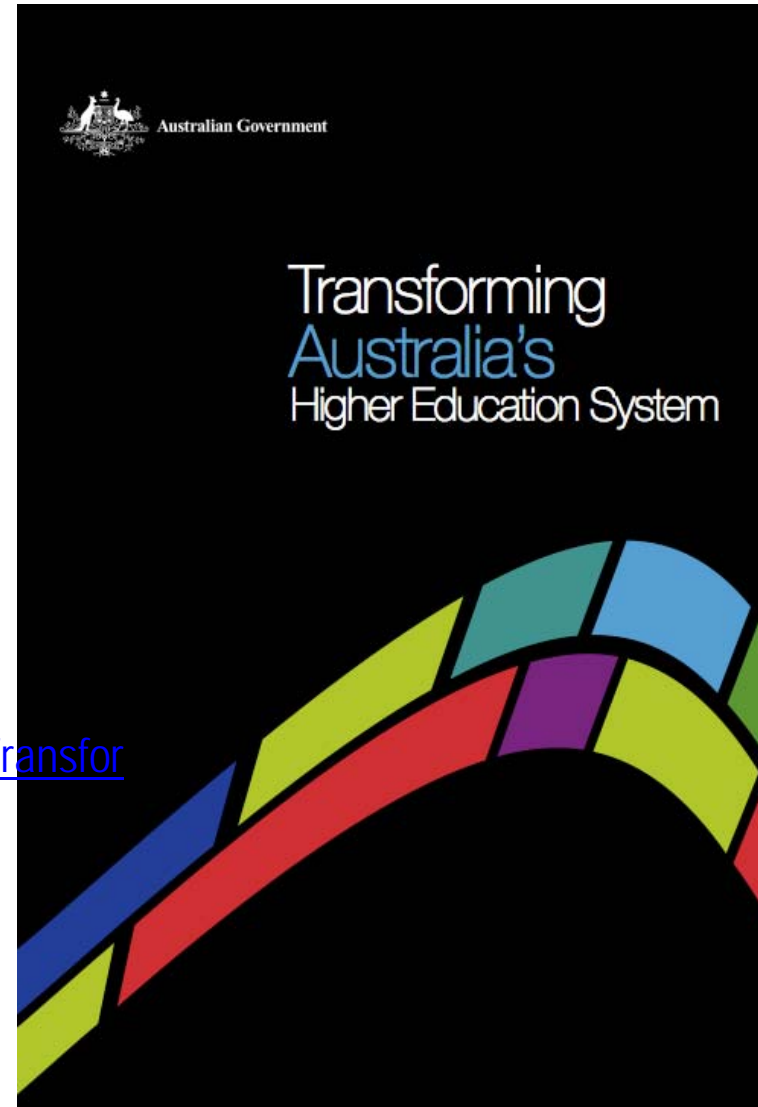
The Australian context



Federal government
response to the review:

*Transforming Australia's
Higher Education System*

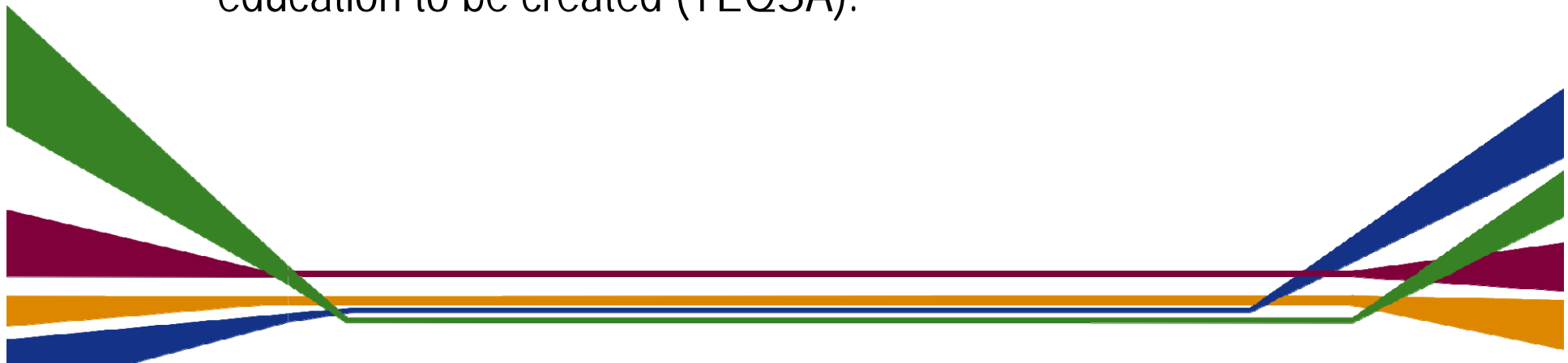
<http://www.deewr.gov.au/HigherEducation/Pages/TransformingAustraliasHESystem.aspx>



Future directions for tertiary education



1. A new student-centred, demand driven, higher education system
 - * A target that by 2025, 40% of Australian 25-34 year olds will have a bachelor level or above qualification.
 - * From 2012 universities will be funded on the basis of student demand.
 - * From 2010, the current cap on over enrolment will be raised from 5 to 10 percent and removed completely in 2012.
 - * A new national regulatory and quality agency for higher education to be created (TEQSA).



Future directions for tertiary education



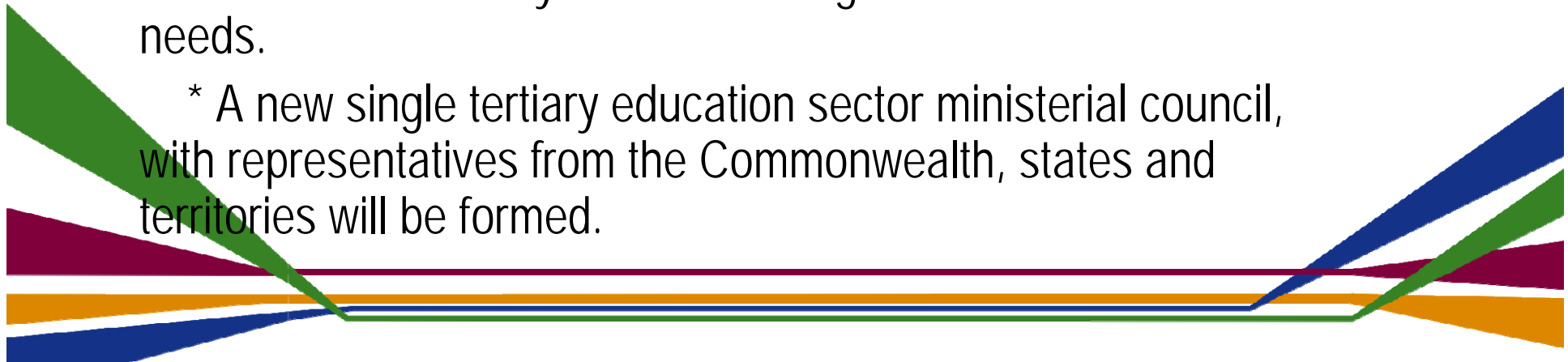
2. Tertiary education pathways for the future

- * National regulatory arrangements for Vocational Education and Training (VET) to be developed alongside the proposed higher education regulator.

- * Australian Qualifications Framework Council will be commissioned to improve connectivity between the university and VET sectors.

- * The role of Skills Australia will be expanded to provide Government with advice on the effectiveness of the higher education and VET system in meeting Australia's labour market needs.

- * A new single tertiary education sector ministerial council, with representatives from the Commonwealth, states and territories will be formed.



Future directions for tertiary education



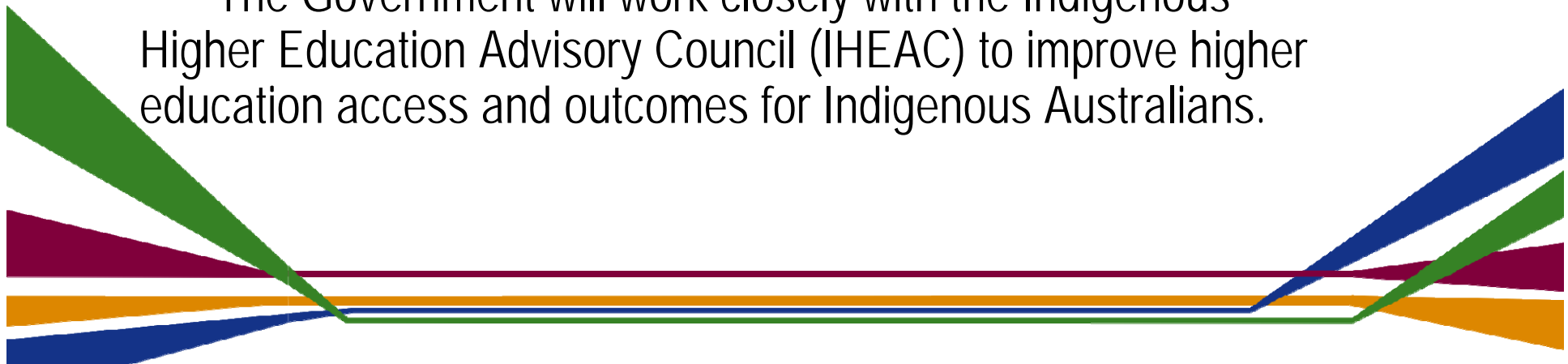
3. Greater possibilities for all Australians

* A target that by 2020, 20% of higher education enrolments at undergraduate level should be from low socio-economic backgrounds.

* Funding for quality teaching and research in regional Australia will be examined and new arrangements introduced.

* The Government will provide \$2 million towards a feasibility study into the possible merger of two universities to improve access and support for regional students.

* The Government will work closely with the Indigenous Higher Education Advisory Council (IHEAC) to improve higher education access and outcomes for Indigenous Australians.



Tertiary education of the future



More students:

From a wider range of backgrounds (low SES,
Indigenous)

With a wider range of experiences and expectations

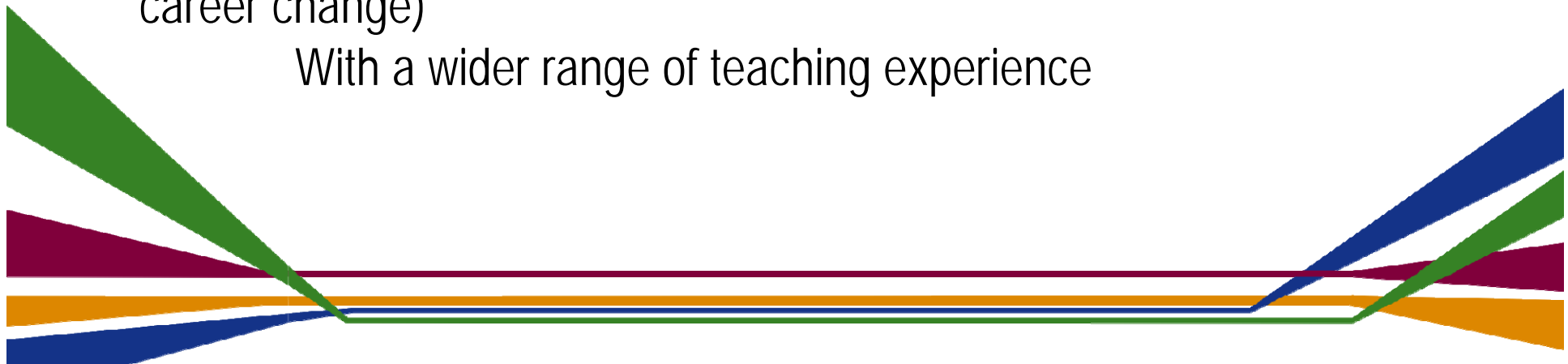
With a wider range of social capital

With a wider range of tertiary education preparedness

More teaching staff:

From a wider range of backgrounds (PhD, industry,
career change)

With a wider range of teaching experience



Tertiary education of the future



Blurred boundaries:

- Higher and vocational education
- Workplace and tertiary study and learning
- Formal and informal study and learning
- Virtual and real world learning

What other differences are likely?

What role(s) are likely for libraries?



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Future directions for tertiary education – student engagement



The *Transforming* document notes that “a positive student experience has an impact on student retention...” (p. 15) and also notes the need for “...an increased emphasis on improving the student learning experience in order to boost retention, progress and, ultimately, completion rates” (p. 15).

* In principle support for the annual administration of and reporting on the Australasia Survey of Student Engagement (the AUSSE)



What is student engagement?

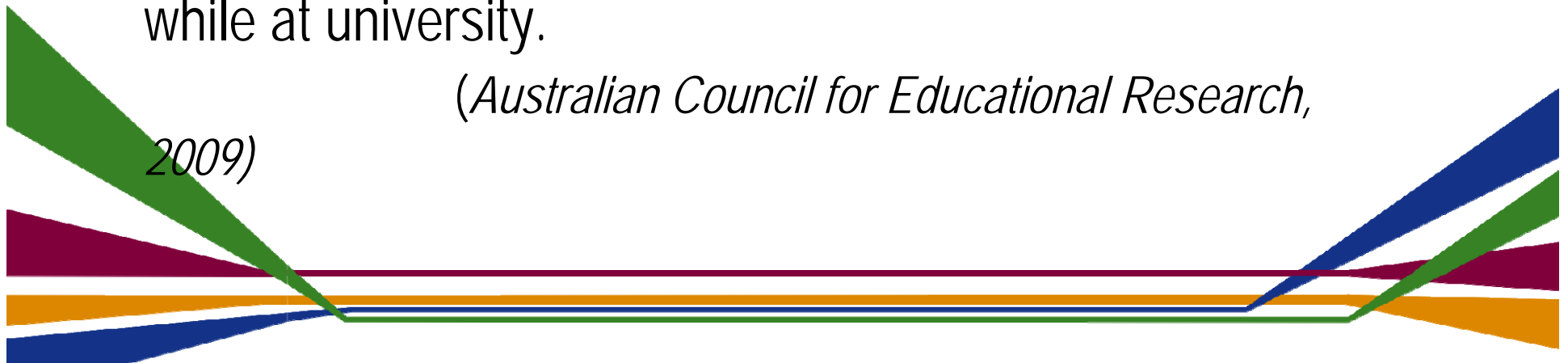


Official (ACER) definition:

University student engagement is understood as students' involvement with *activities* and *conditions* likely to generate high-quality learning. The concept is based on the assumption that student learning is influenced by how students participate in educationally purposeful activities while at university.

(Australian Council for Educational Research,

2009)



What is student engagement?



The Australasian Survey of Student Engagement (AUSSE):

6 Student Engagement scales:

1. Academic challenge
2. Active learning
3. Staff-student interactions
4. Enriching Educational Experiences
5. Supportive Learning Environment
6. Work Integrated Learning



What is student engagement?



The Australasian Survey of Student Engagement (AUSSE):

6 Student Experience scales:

1. Higher Order Thinking
2. General Learning Outcomes
3. General Development Outcomes
4. Average Overall Grade (single item)
5. Departure Intention
6. Overall Satisfaction



What is student engagement?



A focus on a **positive experience**, retention, progress and **completion** (DEEWR)

A focus on **student activities** and **institutional conditions** (ACER/AUSSE)

A focus on **attendance** and '**attentiveness**' (Coal-face teaching staff)

Other understandings?



How is student engagement measured?

Quantity: (DEEWR) progress and completion rates

(ACER/AUSSE): 'How often...?'; 'How much...?'

Quality: (Teachers) More nuanced – 'What kind...?' eg authentic, aligned assessment that requires less than 1000 words of writing



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What role for libraries?



Key role for libraries in:

contributing to the education of, and supporting, future students;

contributing to the work of future teachers;

leading innovations in future learning;

providing virtual and physical spaces for study and learning;

contributing to developments along the way?

What else?



How to support student engagement?



<http://www.deakin.edu.au/itl/student-engagement/>

A website with advice, resources, suggestions on student engagement, gathered from Deakin staff and students, with sections for:

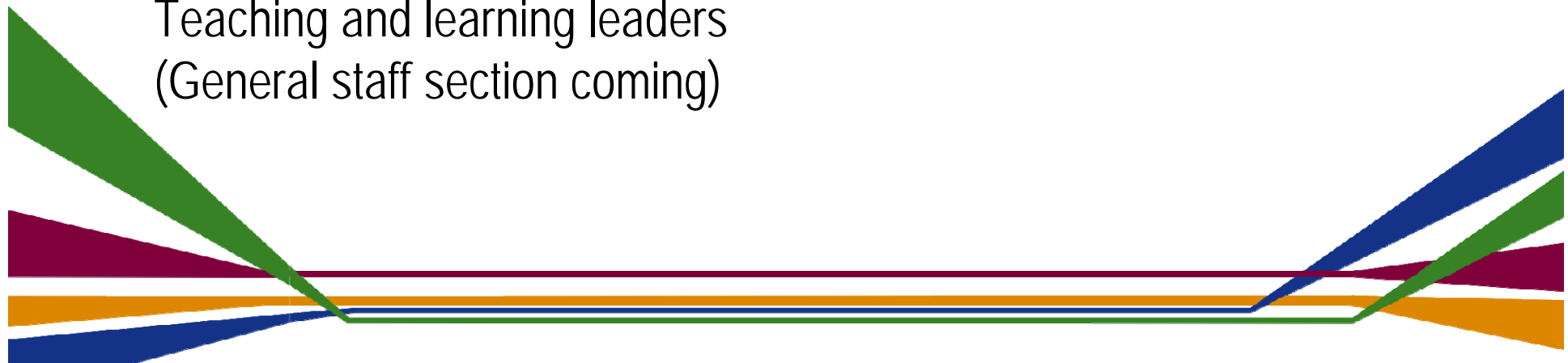
Students

Casual academic staff

Academic teaching staff

Teaching and learning leaders

(General staff section coming)



Your questions and comments

-
-
-



References



Australian Council for Educational Research, 2009, *Australasian Survey of Student Engagement (AUSSE)*. Retrieved June 23, 2009, from <http://www.acer.edu.au/ausse/>

DEEWR, (2009) *Transforming Australia's Higher Education System*. Commonwealth of Australia, Canberra.





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