The activities of the VRQA in 2009–10 were focused on our strategic priorities. Our commitment to efficiently provide quality assurance through proportionate regulation in an expanding and changing education and training environment underpinned our work in continuing the Rapid Audit Program and conducting the Financial Health Assessments of RTOs. We also began the work associated with implementing changes to legislation that impact on school education.

In November 2009, the Minister directed the VRQA to publish government school performance summaries on the State Register, following the publication of annual reports of all schools. The VRQA State Register supports the Government’s policy of choice, quality and transparency in school education.

The VRQA has contributed to the development of new national requirements for VET registration and accreditation. The Australian Quality Training Framework (AQTF) 2010 will bring changes to requirements for VET providers and the VRQA will work with the Commonwealth to assist providers to meet new requirements, which will be implemented later in 2010.

National standards for Foundation Programs were endorsed in December 2009. The VRQA has revised its application process and communicated with providers in order to implement the new standards.

The VRQA has put in place processes in response to changes to requirements for the Commonwealth Register of Institutions and Courses for Overseas Students (CRICOS). These changes resulted from the Commonwealth Education Services for Overseas Students (ESOS) Amendment (Re-registration of Providers and other Measures) Act 2010. All providers registered must meet the new requirements and be re-registered by December 2010.

Communication is a primary focus of the VRQA. This is in direct response to the imperative to keep up to date with education provider needs and to communicate emerging regulatory requirements to them. In addition to communicating through our website and conducting our schedule of information sessions for all sectors, we introduced VRQA E-news, which is sent to all stakeholders regularly and provides the latest information on regulation in education and training.

The VRQA has undergone an audit for the Australian Universities Quality Agency and submitted its report to comply with the requirements for agencies registering and accrediting higher education providers.

Ms Robyn Timmins was appointed Deputy Director of the VRQA in April 2010. Robyn shares executive responsibility with me in managing the VRQA.

I wish to thank Stuart Hamilton and all Board and committee members for their commitment and clear direction to the VRQA staff, which enabled us to achieve VRQA priorities during this year.

Lynn Glover
Director