



**The Association of  
Consulting Engineers  
Australia**

28 April 2006

ENGINEERING LEADERSHIP  
FOR THE COMMUNITY

A.B.N. 25 064 052 615

The Group Manager  
Higher Education Group  
Department of Education, Science and Training  
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Dear Group Manager,

#### **The Bologna Process and Australia: Next Steps**

The Association of Consulting Engineers Australia (ACEA) was delighted to hear that the Department of Education, Science and Training have prepared a discussion paper on greater compatibility between European and Australian universities. ACEA endorses discussion around the issue of making Australian university courses more attractive to European students

ACEA is the peak business organisation of Australian consulting engineering firms. ACEA represents firms of all sizes nationwide – small, medium and large firms. The Australian consulting engineering industry consists of around 13,500 firms, employs more than 97 000 people and generates around \$12.2 billion in revenue

Skills shortage is a real issue in the consulting engineering industry. On average, two thirds of firms in Australia are delaying projects and some even declining projects because they simply don't have the staff available. It is part of our mandate to have a larger pool of places offered to students who want to study engineering at university but also to bring in foreign nationals from overseas to assist with the skills shortage crisis via visa sponsorship programs from our member firms

The Bologna Process is encouraged by ACEA as it seeks to reduce complications with student mobility issues, credit transfer, financial limitations and course requirements. The DEST SET Skills Audit demonstrates our skills shortage crisis. We would be more than happy to assist the national council by discussing these issues further, in particular with regards to working with Australian universities towards increased placements in engineering faculties.

ACEA would be more than happy to discuss our current skills shortage crisis and the ways we can assist the Department in discussing university initiatives such as the Bologna Process.

Yours sincerely,

**MEGAN MOTTO**  
Chief Executive Officer

MEMBER ASSOCIATION OF THE  
INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION  
OF CONSULTING ENGINEERS

