

Vice-Chancellor's review

In 2001, a wide range of positive outcomes confirmed our leadership status while astute planning and extensive organisational change prepared us for a prosperous future.



Conferral of 150 degrees at an inaugural UQ Ipswich graduation ceremony in December was a milestone for The University of Queensland.

It completed the first three-year teaching cycle on this visionary new campus; and within a few months most of those first graduates had jobs, nearly 2000 students had enrolled for 2002 (compared with about 500 in 1999) and the Government had committed more than \$5 million to Stage Three development.

In 2001, overall student load outstripped projections and we achieved a key operational priority with increased post-graduate and international enrolments, including the biggest PhD enrolment of all Australian universities.

Teaching and learning outcomes included continuing success in the Australian Awards for University Teaching and high-achieving graduates such as 83 University Medallists, three Rhodes Scholars and other national and international award winners.

We headed Australia's universities for industry and related research income and ranked second nationally for total reported research income.

Our research strengths backed new spin-off and start-up companies, discoveries of global significance, and projects to serve industry and community needs.

New multi-million-dollar facilities such as a Food for Life Centre of Excellence, a NanoMaterials Centre, a Sustainable Minerals Institute and a Visualisation and Advanced Computation Laboratory boosted our resources while signalling confidence in our ability to produce valuable outcomes.

These and other success stories show our propensity to thrive in an environment where universities are depending more and more on private, rather than public, funding.

We have planned well to meet this challenge, and I am proud to report that this year we derived 56 percent of our total income from sources outside the Commonwealth Operating Grant.

This exceeds the 55 percent goal set for 2004 in our 2000-2004 Strategic Plan, and puts us well on the way to achieving the 60 percent set in a new Plan adopted in November 2001.

Significant organisational changes in 2001 promise similar strategic gains.

Reorganisation of a large number of departments as a smaller number of schools resulted in larger management units, each with a sizeable pool of resources to support strategic initiatives across a wide range of activities. This enhances our flexibility and our ability to respond quickly and wisely to changes in the outside environment.

We also streamlined management with a new, high-tech student administration system and a new degree structure.

A lot of planning and preparation went into these initiatives and I congratulate those who achieved them so successfully.

University Senators, students, staff, graduates and other supporters contributed to the myriad activities and outcomes described in the following pages. I believe that without their efforts, we could not have achieved such first-rate returns to our various stakeholders. Nor could we look forward so confidently to such a prosperous future.

In 2002 this will include premier ratings in national research funding rounds, more commercialisation of research and the opening of major facilities including the \$105 million UQ/CSIRO Joint Building Project (headquarters for the Institute for Molecular Bioscience) and \$20.6 million UQ Centre.

Restructure will continue as required for growth and I will begin a term as chair of Australia's prestigious Group of Eight – a national coalition of leading research-intensive universities.

Its eight members (about a fifth of the 39 universities in Australia) conduct nearly three-quarters of university research and enrol a third of all university students in the country; and as the charts on page 4 show, our University remains among the Group's best performers.

We have done well in 2001. I thank all those who helped advance our aspirations and look forward to your continuing participation in a very promising future.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "John Hay". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a horizontal line underneath the name.

Professor John Hay
VICE-CHANCELLOR