

October 2025

# President's Report

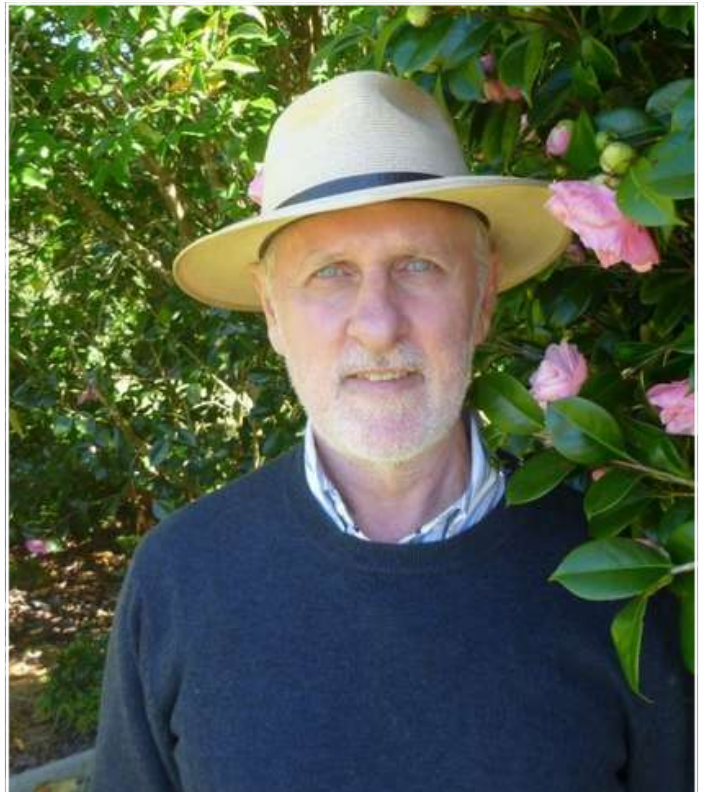
by **John Mason, President International Approval and Registration Centre (IARC)**, Board Member Australian Garden Council, Principal ACS Distance Education, Publisher and Author.

## Introduction

Twenty-five years ago, IARC was established. Why?

The CEO's and Principals of several private vocational colleges including myself, Peter Derig (Health Schools Australia) and Fay Chamoun (Floral Art School), originally connected in the mid 1980's when my school (ACS Distance Education) decided to survey and share information with private schools nationally. I recall that original survey revealed there were significant differences in how we operated our businesses. We all had strengths and weaknesses, but in different areas of our operations. We began meeting together regularly and learning from each other.

In the early 1990's, the Australian government established the registered training and nationally recognised training, and a national body was formed to bring together private colleges - Australian Council of Private Education and Training (ACPET).



## Our purpose...

ACPET was a conduit in connecting private colleges, enabling the networking opportunities that Peter, Fay, others, and I, had been doing informally since mid-1980's. We embraced the new body and met others with our shared interests, including Carmel Thompson. Through Carmel we met Brenden and Daryl Temest Mogg and Julian Ng.

In the late 90's two things happened:

1. Changes in the vocational education system were becoming increasingly bureaucratic and restrictive with regards to what is taught and how it is taught.
2. Technological change and globalisation were causing the education industry to expand internationally.

"Proudly, the Centre has evolved over the years with new branding, the introduction of refreshed standards and the establishment of the CPD course registration framework".

Discussions between myself, Peter Derig and Fay Chamoun, among others, led us acknowledge a need for a recognition body that was independent of government and accessible to all countries and cultures, which would set basic minimal standards for effective and ethical operation in the post-secondary education industry. Many of those original supporters of IARC remain involved today.



## State of Industry...

The education and training industry has seen periods of volatility over the 25 years, none more so than now. Political change and wars, widespread use of artificial intelligence, and changes in education funding by Australian, UK and US government, have also added to unpredictability in the sector.

I have had more discussions than ever with employers and educators, particularly in the UK and Australia. Those conversations have been revealing some interesting and sometimes concerning recently:

Current issues:

- A monopoly of institutions creates expensive, low-quality training.
- Government funding may attract uncommitted lifestyle students.
- Rigid qualification timelines may result in employers signing off apprentices.

Overarching Problem:

- The current training system prioritises qualification over learning.
- There's excessive focus on course enrolment numbers.
- Assessment often takes priority over helping students learn deeply.
- We need to shift emphasis back to learning.

Synopsis:

Key challenges currently undermine Australia's vocational education and training sector, creating critical barriers that prevent educators and industry from effectively developing skilled tradespeople.

"In short, IARC is playing an increasingly significant role in both the Australian and global education landscape. As more people move away from traditional systems in search of greater value, we are committed to developing strategic approaches that meet evolving needs through quality management".

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## Registration of CPD Courses

We have officially launched the course registration system for members seeking to register their courses as CPD courses.. See IARC's Framework for Professional Learning and Development.

Please contact our business manager, [jade@iarcedu.com](mailto:jade@iarcedu.com) to express your interest or find out more about the benefits, and the process and to get your courses registered with us.

## Membership Update

**We proudly have 93 active members. During 2024-2025 we:**

**Approved three new members.**

**Rejected zero** application.

**Cancelled one membership application** for failure to provide sufficient evidence.

**Received resignation of two members** (reason: business closure).

**Terminated membership** of three members.

We have four applications currently in the workflow as pending.

Get in touch if you would like to strengthen your connection with us or get involved personally. We're always looking to connect with like-minded individuals who make quality in education matter.

Warmest wishes,

John Mason



**For Further Inquiries**

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## IARC's Activity 2023-2024

Social Media, Marketing, Technology	Member Engagement & Compliance	People & Entities
<p>We continue to strengthen our online presence with increased followers on social media.</p> <p>Our current project is the development of a brand new website which better reflects our essence and culture. This is scheduled for launch by the end of November. We welcome and suggestions or feedback on the new site.</p> <p>The course registration system follows a similar application process as the membership application. Application links can be sent on request.</p>	<p>We have conducted a audit of members this year - with around 35% of members responding with completed audit forms. An audit is important as it helps us improve our services and fill gaps that members want.</p> <p>We have launched a new course registration service to further support and benefit members in engaging with their learning community and enabling courses to be recognised more broadly as valuable and meaningful courses and education programs.</p>	<p>Melina Tuminello has resigned as Secretary and we seek a new Secretary in Queensland asap.</p> <p>Additionally, we seek a Secretary in the UK, to support our regional efforts there.</p> <p>Sarika Singh resigned from her role at Further Learning, and therefore was no longer able to hold post on the Board.</p> <p>We thank Melina and Sarika for the dedication to the Centre and wish them both well in their future opportunities.</p>