

Monday 18<sup>th</sup> November 2013

Dear Heads of School/Department

On behalf of Exercise & Sports Science Australia (ESSA), we would like to officially release our new ***exercise science standards***.

The exercise science standards are based on the minimum professional requirements of graduates working in all areas of exercise science, and they have been developed in consultation with over 45 practitioners and academic experts across fifteen discipline areas. The standards provide a curriculum framework for university courses in exercise, sport and movement sciences, and they define the *exercise science qualification*, which underpins Exercise Physiology and Sports Science accreditation with ESSA.

This has been the first major review of the exercise science standards since they were first developed as part of our membership criteria in the early 1990's. The revised standards combine elements of the traditional foundations of exercise science, along with a renewed emphasis on professional practice and the delivery of exercise services. There has been a deliberate shift away from a prescriptive set of criteria, towards a suite of professional elements that acknowledge the breadth of exercise science. It is envisaged that this will provide academic units with the flexibility to integrate the minimum exercise science standards, into unique program offerings that have emphasis in specific areas of expertise or local need.

There is ongoing work that will provide further detail around how these new standards will translate into specific individual and university requirements. The Exercise Science Implementation Group (ESIG), a committee comprised of ESSA staff, national board members, members of NUCAP executive and broader committee, current Heads of Schools (as nominated by CHESMS), and an independent teaching and learning expert, is developing further policies and documentation to support the new standards. It is important to note when considering the alignment of current and future curriculum to the new standards, that the outcome of the ESIG work is expected to provide further guidance around the scope and context of the study areas and elements. It is too early in this process to provide any insight into the specifics of these policies; however the group intends to complete this work in time for a full release by mid-2014. Applications for accreditation and membership under the new standards are expected to become available from January 2015.

Kind regards



Anita Hobson-Powell  
Executive Officer



Assoc Prof Chris Askew  
President

