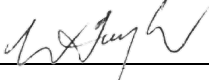


|                         |  |
|-------------------------|--|
| <b>Policy Name</b>      | <b>BENCHMARKING POLICY</b>   |
| <b>Policy Number</b>    | <b>G015_PO (Governance)</b>  |
| <b>Purpose</b>          | <p>Whitehouse Institute of Design, Australia, (Whitehouse) has established a benchmarking policy to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>ensure a common understanding of benchmarking</li> <li>to clarify the benchmarking approach to be used and</li> <li>to describe the requirements for benchmarking with nominated comparators.</li> </ul>   |
| <b>Scope</b>            | <p>This policy applies to all Whitehouse courses and operations.</p> <p>Many elements of Whitehouse’s operations, academic and non academic, may be subjected to benchmarking, for example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>infrastructure and governance</li> <li>teaching and learning outcomes</li> <li>graduate outcomes</li> <li>procedures and processes</li> <li>organisational behaviour</li> <li>compliance requirements.</li> </ul>   |
| <b>Policy Statement</b> | <p><b>Principles of Benchmarking</b></p> <p>The Whitehouse approach to benchmarking is underpinned by a set of principles.</p> <p>Benchmarking:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>is carried out in support of and alignment with the Whitehouse's mission and strategic priorities</li> <li>is integrated into Whitehouse’s planning</li> <li>is purposeful in identifying areas of good practice and areas for improvement which leads to meaningful and worthwhile change</li> <li>involves a commitment to learning and sharing good practice</li> <li>is informed by an evidenced-based approach</li> <li>is respectful of any confidentiality requirements of benchmarking partners with respect to information shared.</li> </ul> <p><b>Benchmarking characteristics</b></p> <p>Benchmarking can take a number of forms and may be characterised by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>the organisational level at which it is undertaken and</li> <li>the partnership arrangements involved.</li> </ul> <p><b>Institutional Benchmarking</b></p> <p>Whitehouse is committed to establishing a benchmarking approach which involves:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>institutional level agreements</li> </ul> |

|  |   |
|--|---|
|  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>other benchmarking with organisations outside of the higher education sector if such organisations demonstrate evidence of good practice.</li> </ul> <p>It is envisaged that specialisation streams will engage in benchmarking as determined by the identification of potential partners who demonstrate best practice.</p> <p><b>National and International Comparators</b></p> <p>In establishing national and international comparators Whitehouse will identify only a select and limited number of core activities for benchmarking and will establish independent Benchmarking Project Plans and Benchmarking Checklists for each partner.</p> <p>In determining useful institutional comparators for benchmarking: At the specialisation level, Whitehouse will select like institutions which teach comparable programs in the specific specialisations Whitehouse delivers.</p> <p>At the course level, institutions which offer comparable under and post-graduate degree programs.</p> <p><b>Objectives</b></p> <p>The overall objective of this benchmarking policy is to ensure that Whitehouse, its various courses and academic offerings and its internal procedures and governance remain competitive, demonstrate evidence of good practice and provides insights into areas for improvement.</p> <p><b>Constraints</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>It is acknowledged that Whitehouse operates in a commercial environment where there are significant sensitivities towards the disclosure of potentially commercial-in-confidence data.</li> <li>That there is in no specific requirement by regulatory bodies for the publication and dissemination of data regarding teaching and learning outcomes.</li> </ul> |
| <b>Relevant Legislation</b>            | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><a href="#">Higher Education Standards Framework (Threshold Standards) 2021</a></li> <li><a href="#">2016 Higher Education Support Act (2003)</a></li> <li><a href="#">Australia Qualifications Framework (AQF)</a></li> </ul>   |
| <b>Key Related Documents</b>           | <p>Benchmarking Procedure</p> <p>Benchmarking Framework</p> <p>Benchmarking Project Plan</p> <p>Benchmarking Guidelines</p> <p>Benchmarking Checklist</p>   |
| <b>Responsible Officer</b>             | Executive Directors   |
| <b>Approval Authority/ Authorities</b> | Board of Governors  |
| <b>Date Approved</b>                   | 10/04/2017  |

|  |   |             |             |
|--|---|-------------|-------------|
| <b>Date of Commencement</b>                              | 11/04/2017  |             |             |
| <b>Date for Review</b>                                   | 11/04/2020  |             |             |
| <b>Documents superseded by this Procedure</b>            | Benchmarking Policy and Procedure – November 2014   |             |             |
| <b>Amendment History</b>                                 | <p>05/2018<br/>Re-branding – Header &amp; Footer only</p> <p>10/2016<br/>Policy and Procedures separated and HE and VET documentations separated.<br/>Updated formatting and minor amendments</p> |             |             |
| <b>Signed and dated for Whitehouse Institute Pty Ltd</b> |    | Les Taylor  | 30/05/2018  |
|  | <b>Signature</b>  | <b>Name</b> | <b>Date</b> |

| INFORMATION FOR PUBLISHING ON POLICY REGISTER |  |
|---|--|
| <b>Category</b>                               | Governance   |
| <b>Stakeholders</b>                           | Board of Governors<br>Academic Board<br>Executive Management<br>Academic Staff<br>Administration Staff<br>Students |