Emeritus Professor Joan Cooper is a Higher Education Consultant. She has extensive experience in developing various Credentialed Awards for the career readiness of students in tertiary education. Her recent case study ‘The Diploma of Professional Practice’, presented at the 2013 ACEN Forum, highlights the significance of WIL engagement for the improvement of graduate employability standards across a number of universities in Australia. She has extensive experience in Senior Executive positions in Australian Universities. She retired in March 2012 from the position of Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Students) & Registrar at UNSW which she held for 5 years. Her primary responsibility was the whole spectrum of the undergraduate student experience – from recruitment through to graduation. Professor Cooper was formerly Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic) at Flinders University where she was responsible for the leadership and management of academic policies and procedures, and leadership in quality assurance, learning and teaching. She is a former Dean of Informatics at the University of Wollongong, where she served as Chair of the University Senate, and has held senior positions at two other Australian universities.

Professor Cooper has wide ranging experience both nationally and internationally in tertiary education accreditation and quality audits. She was appointed an AUQA Auditor in 2004 and in the last 10 years has served as Panel Chair or panel member of audits and accreditations in both Australia and Asia and the Middle East. Professor Cooper also has experienced of managing quality audits, she managed both Flinders University and UNSW AUQA audits. She has experience in undertaking reviews of Academic Boards, Teaching and Learning Units, Information Technology Services (chaired Review Panel) and Student Services (chaired Review Panel) for other Universities.

Presentation Summary

Credentialed Awards for Career Readiness

Professor Joan Copper will provide a Case Study of the development, implementation and evaluation of the Diploma of Professional Practice at UNSW.

The Diploma of Professional Practice (DPP) is an institution-wide enterprise that was developed at UNSW during 2011 and commenced in 2012. Its purpose is to enhance UNSW students’ opportunities to develop their graduate capabilities. This intention was informed by the results of surveys of both employers and students regarding ways in which the UNSW student educational experience could be improved to enhance students’ employability as well as their understanding of professional work and career readiness. The DPP was designed to be undertaken concurrently with students’ primary degree programs. An external review of the DPP has just been completed.