Welcome to the latest edition of Health Information Management.

An important theme of this edition is health information manager education, both here in Australia and overseas. As you will see from the reports from the four Australian universities with courses currently accredited by HIMAA, the undergraduate courses continue to advance, and postgraduate education for health information managers has also been established in some settings.

The undergraduate courses have all now passed the landmark 20 years.

1983 was a big year for education in our profession. Students who enrolled that year at Cumberland College of Health Sciences in New South Wales, Lincoln Institute of Health Sciences in Victoria, Western Australian Institute of Technology (WAIT) and Queensland University of Technology (QUT) all had the opportunity to undertake three-year full-time courses.

At Cumberland College and at QUT, the programs were offered at Bachelor’s degree level, while the courses in Victoria and Western Australia were still in transition to that level. At Lincoln, the degree program wasn’t actually approved until 1984, but those students who were enrolled in 1983 were given the option of either completing the Associate Diploma in Medical Record Administration or of extending their studies to complete the degree program. At WAIT, the course in 1983 was still at three-year diploma level, but when approval of the degree course was achieved in 1987, all past graduates of the diploma course received a Bachelor’s degree retrospectively, in recognition that the previous program justified the awarding of the higher qualification.

Clearly, the dedicated efforts of the educators in those days to raise the status of the courses and provide a comprehensive education for upcoming health information managers still continues today. For this we should be collectively grateful.

On another note, the electronic version of the journal has also continued to develop. You will notice the latest enhancement enables articles to be downloaded in portable document format (PDF), a feature that we hope will make the process of reproducing articles easier.

HIMAA hopes that members and subscribers will continue to find the journal a source of valuable information and guidance in their own continuing professional development – as well as a good read!

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