



Australian Council of Deans of ICT

ACS (ACDICT), P.O. Box Q534, QVB, Sydney NSW 1230
www.acdict.edu.au

NICTA Review Secretariat
nicta.mail@dbcde.gov.au

20 July 2012

ACDICT Response to the NICTA Review

The Australian Council of Deans of ICT (ACDICT), Australia's peak academic body for ICT, welcomes the opportunity to make a submission to the review of NICTA. We applaud the Federal Government's and State Governments' investments in ICT research through their support of NICTA. That investment in research has made a difference to the ICT landscape in Australia, and we strongly encourage both Federal and State governments to continue to invest in ICT research. Ongoing developments in ICT are fundamental to the health of any advanced economy.

ACDICT has several similarities to NICTA. First, we both represent ICT as reflected in our title. Second, we are both new organisations - ACDICT has been in existence for less than five years. Third, and most significantly, we are both national organisations representing ICT with a responsibility to promote ICT, and ACDICT looks forward to working with NICTA.

We would like to note that a number of members of ACDICT believe NICTA needs to improve its relationship with universities in general. Not all of ACDICT's members have a relationship with NICTA, and not all those that do have a positive relationship. We observe, also, that NICTA has had little engagement with ACDICT, which potentially can lead to insularity in both our organisations' activities. In the opinion of a number of members of ACDICT, NICTA needs to work harder at collaboration.

We also observe that NICTA's disciplinary scope is somewhat narrow. Not all disciplines of ICT are represented within NICTA's research portfolio – a notable example is Information Systems. A broader research base would benefit the national research capability and excellence. Moving forward, we would welcome NICTA's view of what ICT encompasses, particularly given its national role, and we would encourage it to assume a more inclusive approach.

Yours sincerely

Professor Leon Sterling
ACDICT President
Dean, Faculty of Information and Communication Technologies
Swinburne University of Technology