Key Themes from the Thematic Analysis of the CINNTE Review Reports of Independent and Private HEIs

thematic-analysis-of-the-cinnte-review-reports-of-independent-and-private-heis.pdf

CINNTE reviews of private & independent HEIs

- 2024 - CINNTE reviews extended to include independent and private HEIs

- Terms of reference and handbook devised

- Reviews of the four large private and independent HEIs completed - review reports published

- Reviews evaluate institution-wide QA

- Thematic analysis conducted on these four reports

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Thematic Analysis

- Describes and analyses general findings across a process/sector.

- Identifies common themes.

- Shows developments, trends and areas of good practice.

- Contributes to improvements at institutional and sectoral level, national and international contexts.
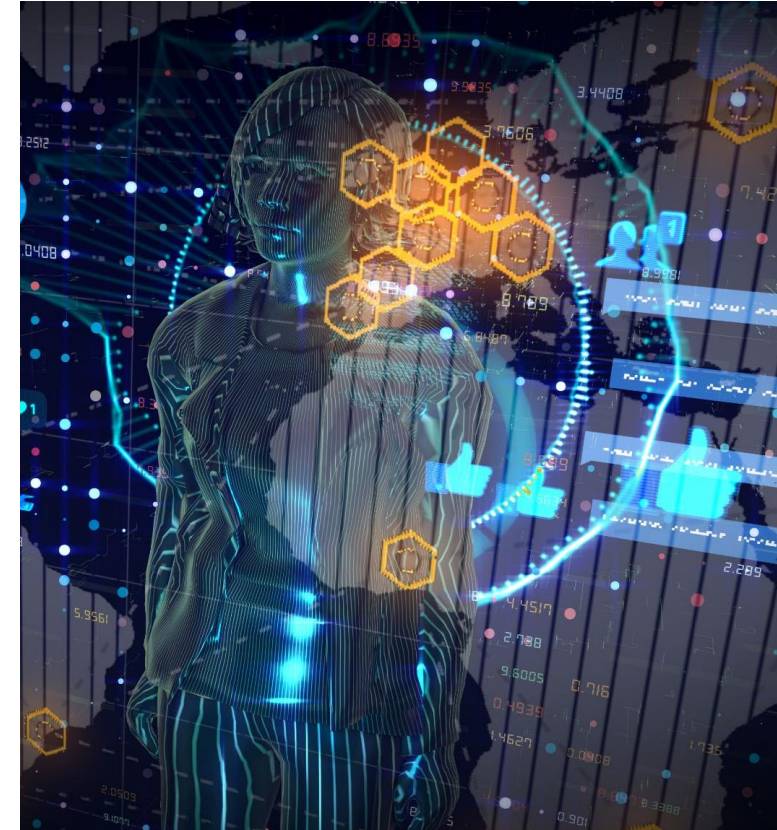
GenAI & manual analysis

Combined Approach: GenAI and manual methods used to identify key themes.

MS Copilot acted as a research assistant.

Independent Review Process: Two staff members conducted independent thematic analysis.

Theme verification: Final themes verified through discussion and collaboration.

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Key Themes

- Methodologies for ISER

- Governance and Management of QA

- Teaching, Learning and Assessment

- Self-Evaluation, Monitoring and Review

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Methodologies for the ISER - Key Themes

- Stakeholder engagement in ISER development.

- Data collection, analysis, and case studies.

- Reflective, evaluative approaches and alignment with strategic goals.

- Identification of key areas for improvement in ISERs.

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Stakeholder engagement in ISER development

- Inclusive Stakeholder Engagement with diverse ISER working groups formed.

- Wide ranging consultations provided valuable insights.

- Variations in level of engagement, review teams suggested adding external examiners and employers.

- Concern about lack of student representatives on some groups, despite student involvement in the process.

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Data collection, analysis and case studies

- **Diverse Data Collection -** Institutions used quantitative and qualitative data (surveys, feedback, KPIs).

- **Case Studies and Peer Reviews -** Good practices and areas for improvement.

- **Shared Data Analysis -** Fostered stakeholder engagement.

- **Areas for Improvement -** Incorporating metrics, enhancing student participation.

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Reflective, evaluative approaches and alignment with strategic goals

- **Commitment to critical reflection** and continuous improvement.

- **Alignment with Strategic Goals -** focus on key quality and development areas.

- **Need to enhance Data-Driven QA -** systematic, data-driven monitoring.

- **Strategic Workforce Planning –**need to develop workforce plans to support growth and clarify roles.

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Identification of key areas for improvement in ISERs

- **Enhance Student Support Services -** foster academic success and wellbeing.

- **Improve Assessment and Feedback methods -** better support learning outcomes.

- **Strengthen QA Governance –** more effective institutional quality assurance.

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Governance and Management Themes

- Clear governance structures with oversight teams.

- Centralised and updated QA policies.

- Commitment to quality and inclusivity through staff development.

- Ensuring academic integrity with policies & procedures, external examiners, guidelines for research and use of GenAI.

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Governance and Management: Areas for Improvement

- Simplify QA Governance Structures.

- Enhanced Learner Engagement in QA Governance Forums.

- Integrate strategic planning and improve communication.

- Develop strategic workforce plans and data-driven monitoring supports.

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Teaching, Learning and Assessment (TLA) Themes

- **Quality and Flexibility:** HEIs are ensuring high-quality teaching through expert-led programme design, flexible delivery and continuous monitoring, supported by staff development.

- **Learning Environment**: HEIs are enhancing student learning via strategic infrastructure investment, expanding flexible delivery modes and updating QA processes to ensure equity and inclusion.

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Teaching, Learning and Assessment (TLA) Themes

- **Assessment and Academic integrity(AI):** HEIs are enhancing AI through updated assessment policies and practices, while continuing to strengthen consistency of information communicated with stakeholders.

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Teaching, Learning and Assessment (TLA) Themes

- **Learner Support Services:** HEIs offer comprehensive support services—including digital hubs, libraries, and tailored international student assistance—while being encouraged to enhance data monitoring and accessibility to better serve diverse student needs.

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TLA: Areas for Improvement

Assessment Clarity: Improve accessibility and consistency of assessment information for students.

Monitoring Frameworks: Strengthen systems for benchmarking and analysing student results.

Academic Integrity: Update policies to address emerging challenges in academic integrity, such as the use of GenAI.

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TLA: Areas for Improvement

Work-Integrated Learning: Expand accredited placements to enhance employability and practical experience for students.

Student Partnership: Embedding a 'students as partners' approach to ensure meaningful student participation in self-evaluation, monitoring, and governance processes.

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Self-Evaluation, Monitoring & Review: Key Themes

Structured Review Cycles: regular programme reviews undertaken using diverse monitoring mechanisms.

Integrated Monitoring: Multi-layered approaches combine internal audits, external evaluations & stakeholder feedback.

Inclusive Engagement with stakeholders ensuring diverse perspectives in self-evaluation.

Collaborative Practices: Advisory groups and inclusive consultations commonly used.

Areas identified for improvement

- **Stakeholder Engagement Practices:** Continue to involve diverse stakeholders in self-evaluation.

- **Enhance Stakeholder Input:** Enhance input form external examiners, employers, and placement providers.

- **Data-Driven Decision Making:** Strengthen internal QA and enhance data driven decision making.

- **Clear Quality Indicators:** Develop measurable indicators to provide insights for management and staff decision-making.

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