The Future of Assessment

Conversation Topic
“The Future of Assessment”
In April 2014 CSE published Geoff Masters’ Occasional Paper 135 “Assessment: Getting to the essence.” This paper provided the essence of Geoff Masters’ previous ACER publication “Reforming educational assessment: imperatives, principles and challenges.”

In November 2014 CSE published Seminar Series 239 “Assessment renaissance” by Peter Hill and Michael Barber. Many of the forces for change identified by Hill and Barber had previously been described by Geoff Masters.

Geoff asks what are the forces for change and how will they change the future of assessment?

He identifies three developments underpinning the transformation of assessment now underway. First, fundamental changes are occurring in how we conceptualise and approach the assessment of student learning. Second, there is growing international interest in, and demand for, the assessment of a broader range of skills and attributes than those addressed in most current assessment efforts. Third, advances in technology are opening the door to new ways of gathering information about student learning, including through records of real-time interactions in online learning environments. He refers to these three developments as new thinking, new metrics and new technologies of assessment.

In conversation
Geoff Masters has agreed to an ‘In Conversation’ Session with CSE’s CEO Tony Mackay. This early evening session will be an opportunity to explore Geoff’s recent work on the future of assessment at school, system and global levels.

About Geoff Masters
Geoff Masters AO is Chief Executive Officer and a member of the Board of the Australian Council for Educational Research (ACER) – roles he has held since 1998. Professor Masters has served on a range of bodies, including terms as President of the Australian College of Educators; founding President of the Asia-Pacific Educational Research Association; member of the Business Council of Australia’s Education, Skills and Innovation Taskforce; member of the Australian National Commission for UNESCO; and member of the International Baccalaureate Research Committee.

He is currently a member of the Advisory Board for the Science of Learning Research Centre, the ABC Digital Education Advisory Group and the national Board of Life Education Australia.