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Julie Wells is the Director of Policy and Planning at RMIT, where her work supports strategic and academic planning, quality review and improvement, institutional research and policy development and analysis. She has worked in a variety of academic and general staff positions in Australian universities; and as a secondary school and TAFE teacher. Between 1998 and 2002 she was National Policy and Research Coordinator for the National Tertiary Education Union. Her role there encompassed tertiary education policy development and analysis, strategic planning, campaign development, government and media liaison. She has also worked short stints in a number of parliamentarians' offices.

She was the NTEU's representative on the Federation of Scientific and Technological Societies Board (observer member) between 1996 and 1998, and in 2004-5, she was an elected member of the Board of the Council for the Humanities, Arts and Social Sciences. She is an experienced policy analyst and commentator, and a regular columnist with *Campus Review Weekly*.