



Connectedness + Engagement = Retention

Federation University

Partner Forum 2020

Professor Sally Kift PFHEA FAAL

President, Australian Learning & Teaching Fellows

Discipline Scholar: Law

11 February 2020

**Federation University,
Mt Helen Campus, Ballarat**

 **@KiftSally**

Connectedness – Engagement – Retention

- ❑ **Connecting** with the Policy Agenda – The Big Four x 3
- ❑ What to do about all that?
- ❑ Might hyper **connectedness** help?
- ❑ **Connectedness 2.0/ Connectedness Unplugged** for:
 - HE's 3rd mission;
 - Human(e) connectedness; Mental health & wellbeing;
 - Connected curriculum & student experience;
 - Connected lifelong learning (LLL) with allies.
- ❑ Then adding the Holy Grail of **Engagement**
 - ❑ A messy, multidimensional & dynamic “social-cultural ecosystem”
 - ❑ For, and as between, both students and staff.
- ❑ A formula for **Retention**



Current onshore partners

Academies Australasia Polytechnic

ATMC (Melbourne)

ATMC (Sydney)

GOTAFE

IIBIT (Sydney)

IIBIT (Adelaide)

Kangan Institute

MIT (Melbourne)

MIT (Sydney)

Sydney TAFE - St George College

TAFE Queensland – South Brisbane

Western Sydney Institute - Blacktown

Western Sydney Institute - Campbelltown

Western Sydney Institute - Parramatta

Western Sydney Institute - Mount Druitt



The Centre for University Partnerships (CUP)

Education partnerships



Australian Government
Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency

HE Standards & Management of 3rd Party Arrangements

11th December 2017

https://federation.edu.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0003/376059/TEQSA-Third-Party-Provision-Federation-U-Forum-2017.pdf

Presented by Dr Michael Tomlinson
Director, Assurance Group



Australian Government
Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency

Guidance Note: Third-Party Arrangements

8 October 2019

TEQSA



Australian Government
Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency

TEQSA

Guidance Note: Monitoring and Analysis of Student Performance

6 January 2020 (Beta)

Agenda

- 1 **HE Standards Framework 2015 – Key Features**
- 2 **HE Standards – Delivery with Other Parties**
- 3 **3rd Party Value Chain**
 - i. Intent of the Standards
- 4 **Highlights of Guidance Note**
 - i. Risks to Quality
 - ii. Due Diligence
- 5 **Topics for agreement with third parties**
 - i. Rights & Responsibilities
- 6 **What can go wrong?**
- 7 **Some aspects of good practice**
- 8 **University category criteria**
- 9 **Q & A**

Connectedness + Engagement = Retention

A departmental framing...



Andrew Norton @andrewjnorton · Feb 3

<https://twitter.com/andrewjnorton/status/1224105259456315392>

And so the Department of Education becomes DESE. Will it improve on DETYA, DEETYA, DEST, DEEWR, DIISRTE, DIICCSRTE (really) or DET (apologies if I missed some or got the order wrong)?

dese.gov.au

13

7

42



Another sum of two parts:



DESSFB

Former Department of Employment, Skills, Small and Family Business website



DET

Former Department of Education website



DESE



<https://www.dese.gov.au/>

The [HE] Big Four

- 4 measures:
20+20+20+40
- \$80m in 2020

- Bands w greater diff; Qual types' focus; Enabling; RPL
- MicroCredentials

- Simpler & rebalanced HE provider categories
- Research • Rec 6

- Cap and Trade
- Use it or lose it

PERFORMANCE-BASED FUNDING FOR
THE COMMONWEALTH GRANT SCHEME
Report for the Minister for Education - June 2019

20
19

PERFORMANCE-BASED FUNDING FOR THE
COMMONWEALTH GRANT SCHEME
TECHNICAL NOTE

Feb 2020

DETAILS OF THE PERFORMANCE-BASED FUNDING MODEL

ACCEPTED

REVIEW OF THE AUSTRALIAN
QUALIFICATIONS FRAMEWORK

FINAL REPORT 2019

What's in a Name?
Review of the
Higher Education Provider
Category Standards

FINAL REPORT
OCTOBER 2019

EMERITUS PROFESSOR PETER COALDRAKE AO

ACCEPTED

Dan Tehan tells universities to use student places or lose some

By TIM DODD
HIGHER EDUCATION EDITOR
Follow @TimDoddEDU

6:11PM NOVEMBER 5, 2019
1 COMMENT

Nov 5 2019



Consultation Paper on the reallocation
of Commonwealth supported places
for enabling, sub-bachelor and
postgraduate courses

1. Introduction

<https://bit.ly/2NNiiTV>

The Australian Government provides a specified number of Commonwealth supported places (CSPs) for enabling, sub-bachelor (diploma, advanced diploma and associate degree) and postgraduate courses each year. The current distribution of these places among higher education providers reflects historical, ad hoc decisions that may no longer be optimal. Since implementation of demand driven bachelor funding in 2012, some of the key funding policy developments that have impacted on the allocation of places have been:

- In November 2011 the Government announced...



<https://www.education.gov.au/performance-based-funding-commonwealth-grant-scheme>

<https://www.education.gov.au/australian-qualifications-framework-review-0>

<https://www.education.gov.au/review-higher-education-provider-category-standards>

<https://www.education.gov.au/allocation-enabling-sub-bachelor-and-postgraduate-commonwealth-supported-places>

<https://bit.ly/2NluCfu>

SKILLS FOR TODAY & TOMORROW

- >\$525m Package
- [National Careers Institute](#) (01/07/19)
- [National Skills Commission](#) (2019 DP)
- VET: "career pathway of choice"

The [Tertiary] Big Four : (1) Skills

Campus Review Article:

PM recruits The Block star to boost VET profile

<https://bit.ly/2JVvDsh>

Delivering Skills for Today and Tomorrow

National Careers Institute

For: 

<https://www.employment.gov.au/NCI>

The National Careers Institute will provide leadership in the delivery of high quality, evidence-based career development to enable Australians to make informed decisions about their learning, training and work pathways.

On this page:

- [About the Institute](#)
- [National Careers Ambassador](#)
- [Research and Stakeholder Engagement](#)
- [Grants Program](#)
- [Digital Platform](#)
- [Raise the Status of VET](#)
- [Background documents](#)
- [Contact us](#)



Visit the

National Careers
Institute e-Hub



Australian Government
Department of Education,
Skills and Employment

Latest Videos

> [National Careers Ambassador](#)



Scott Cam is Australia's first National Careers Ambassador. Scott talks about how vocational education and training offers a variety of career and skills pathways.

April 2019 Strengthening Skills

Expert Review of Australia's Vocational
Education and Training System

The Honourable Steven Joyce



Ministers' Media Centre

For the Department of Employment, Skills, Small and Family Business

Michaelia Cash

Steve Irons

Expert panel to advise on the future of Vocational Education and Training

[Home](#) > [Senator the Hon Michaelia Cash](#) > [Expert panel to advise on the future of Vocational Education and Training](#)

Tuesday 27 August 2019
Joint Media Release

Senator the Hon Michaelia Cash

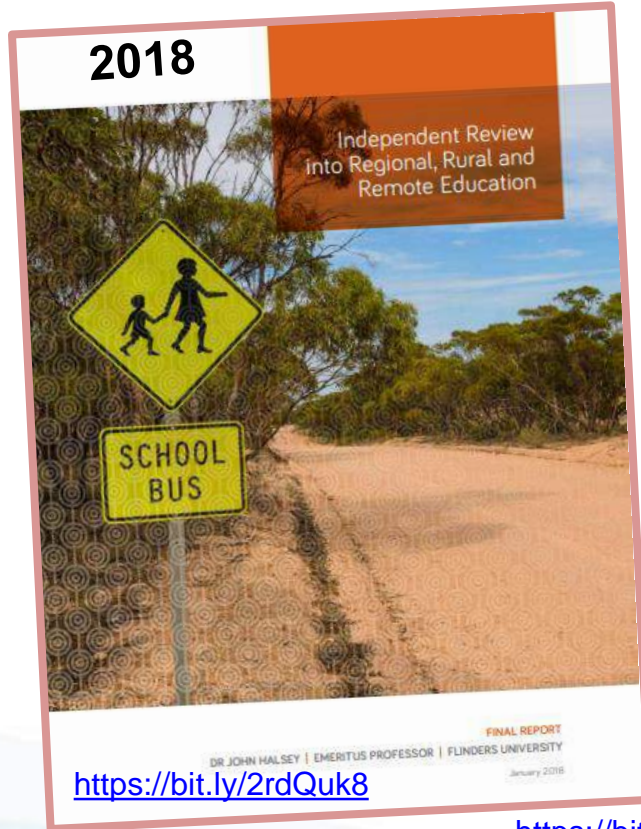
Minister for Employment, Skills, Small and Family Business

The Hon Steve Irons MP

Assistant Minister for Vocational Education, Training and Apprenticeships

The Big [Tertiary] Four : (2) RRR

Independent Review into Regional, Rural & Remote Education (IRRRRE)) (Halsey Review)



<https://bit.ly/2KF1LB1>

Government accepted all 11 RECs

Key initiatives to address the Review outcomes include:

- Expand [accessibility of sub-bachelor programs](#)
- Expand [accessibility for bachelor students at regional study hubs](#)
- Improved access to [Youth Allowance for Regional Students](#)

Regional Education Package

<https://www.education.gov.au/access-and-participation>

Nov 2018: Government announced **\$134.8 million over 4yrs** to provide students from rural & regional Aust with greater HE access



Naphthine Review to bridge divide between city & country students

- For “*equal opportunity & educational equity*”
- “Focus on *improving participation & outcomes* of RRR students post-secondary ed”
- To benefit: Individuals; Communities; the nation.

7 Recs, 33 related actions <https://bit.ly/2rj9RbK>

Govt accepted “*aims of 7 key Recs*”



LAKE CRACKENBACK RESORT, JINDABYNE
14 - 15TH NOVEMBER 2019

<https://bit.ly/34b7kyN>



2019: >22 hubs

Figure 5. Attrition rate of domestic bachelor commencing students, 2017



https://docs.education.gov.au/system/files/doc/other/national_regional_rural_and_remote_tertiary_education_strategy.pdf

RECOMMENDATIONS: For RRR students –

1. Improve **access** to tertiary study
2. Improve access to **financial support**
3. Improve **student support services** to address transition challenges & higher attrition (*as above*)
4. Build **aspiration**, improve **career advice** & strengthen **RRR schools** for student success
5. Improve **participation & outcomes** for RRR **equity groups** students, including: LSES, Indigenous, remote & students with disability
6. Strengthen tertiary ed providers' role in **regional development** – grow Australia's regions
7. Strategy **co-ord re implementation & monitoring**

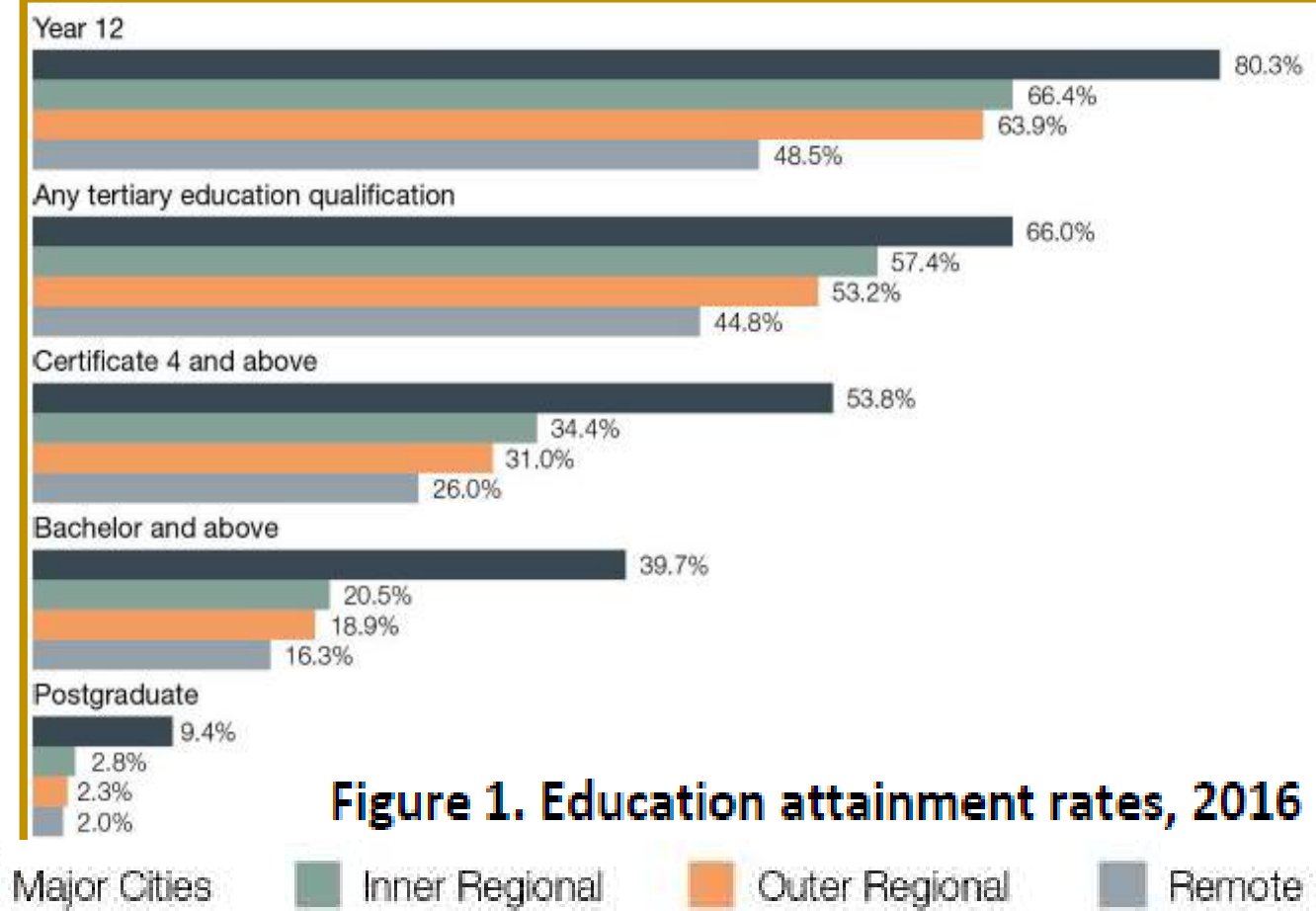


Figure 1. Education attainment rates, 2016

The Big [Tertiary] Four : (3) Pathways & Careers

August 2019 - June 2020 Clearer senior school pathways: “*potential to impact significantly on current senior secondary entry requirements into tertiary education*”.



MEDIA RELEASE

8 August 2019

Supporting senior secondary students on a pathway to the future Shergold Review

<http://www.educationcouncil.edu.au/>

Education Council has commissioned a review of senior secondary pathways to examine how students can be supported to choose the best pathway into work, further education or training.

Help students make best decisions for their future: esp, equity groups (disability, RRR, & Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander).

RRR: The problem.

Over
40%

of regional students with an ATAR over 75 aren't going to university from school. Research shows that the longer they take to go to uni from school, the less likely it is that they'll go at all.

The barriers are cost, not knowing what to study and insecurity about leaving family and friends. These factors can have a cumulative effect, and can lead students to take a gap year- then they don't return.



THE REVIEW OF
SENIOR SECONDARY PATHWAYS
INTO WORK, FURTHER EDUCATION AND TRAINING
<https://www.pathwaysreview.edu.au/>



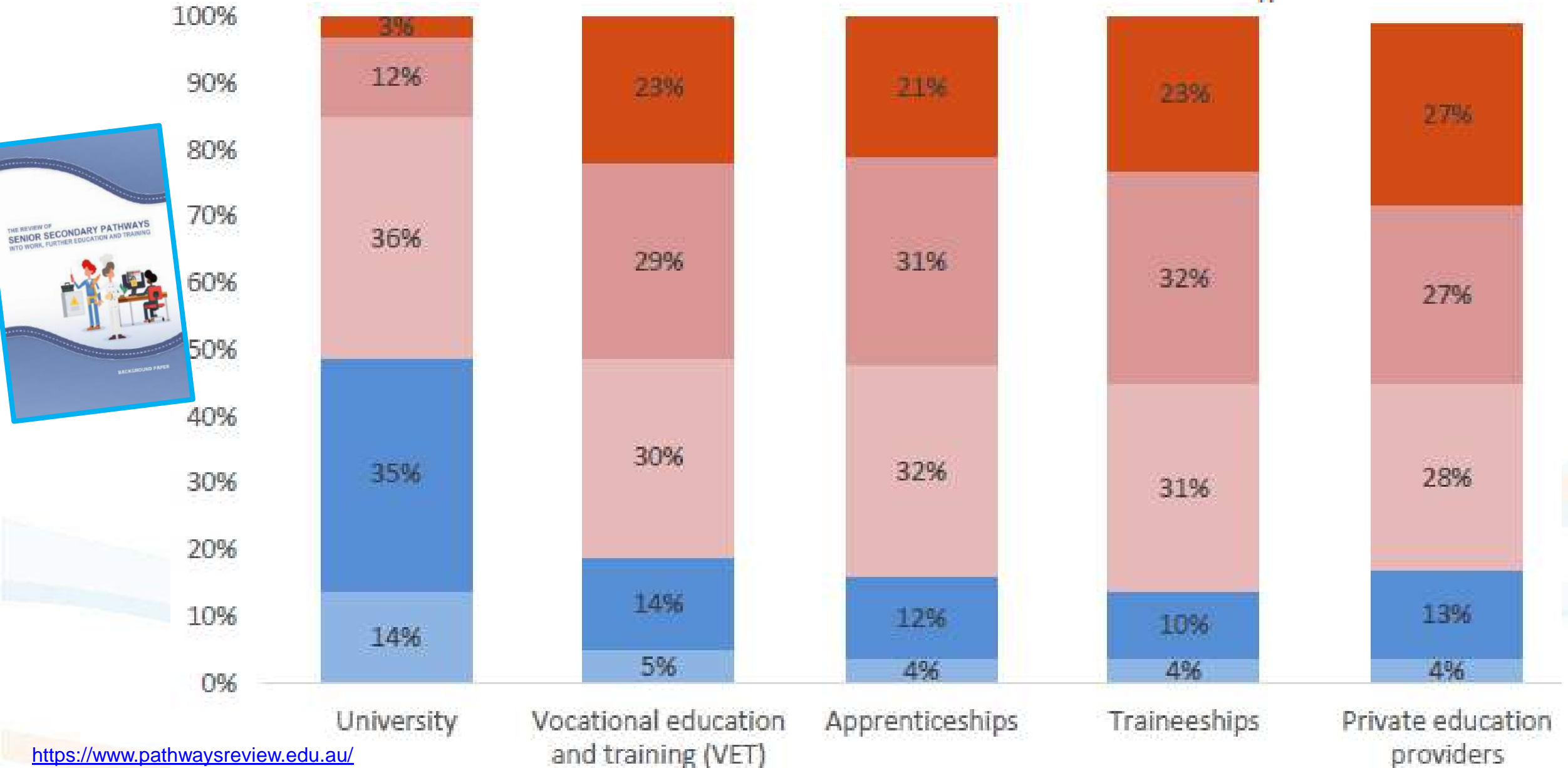
[https://education.nsw.gov.au/about-us/our-people-and-structure/media/documents/Regional Transitions ReportFinal A.pdf](https://education.nsw.gov.au/about-us/our-people-and-structure/media/documents/Regional%20Transitions%20ReportFinal%20A.pdf)



**REGIONAL TRANSITIONS
TO UNIVERSITY**
REPORT HIGHLIGHTS
Prepared by the National Centre for Student Equity in
Higher Education for the NSW Department of Education
education.nsw.gov.au

How well do you feel you understand these pathways? @KiftSally

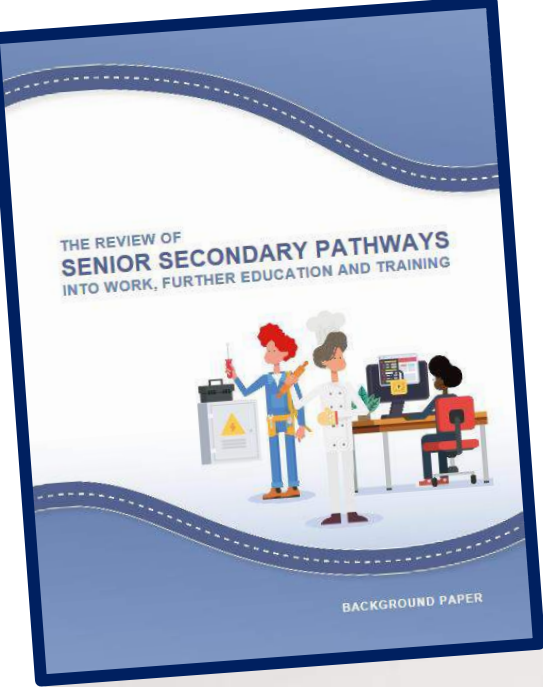
■ Strong understanding ■ Good understanding ■ Average understanding ■ Poor understanding ■ No understanding



<https://www.pathwaysreview.edu.au/>

Source: Shipley, B. and Stubley, W. (2018) *After the ATAR II: Understanding how Gen Z make decisions about their future, Year13, Australia*

The ATAR Wars



Shergold:
**“ATAR...
a pretty poor
indicator...”**

<https://bit.ly/32hTpVL>

“Too often young people believe that their **individual capacity** is judged by a **single academic score** at the end of year 12 ...Yet the reality is that for the majority of students an academic mark at age 18 is a **pretty poor indicator** of educational capacity, let alone workplace potential.”



Peter Shergold October 18, 2019

**CAMPUS
REVIEW**

“Perhaps we need to **prepare senior secondary students** not for university or TAFE or an apprenticeship, but **for a single seamless tertiary sector** in which they can move flexibly between different types of education, skills training and employment, learning to learn their way through life?”

New thinking needed to help students navigate the future

The Big [Tertiary] Four : (4) Connected Tertiary Ed Sector

“A cost-effective, fit-for-purpose suite of tertiary education options for all students”

➤ Need holistic approach to all reviews for better use of *both* VET & HE

5 Recommendations (August 31 Roundtable)

1. Increase **participation** in tertiary education
2. Set clear **objectives** for tertiary education
3. Improve **student choices** in tertiary education
4. **Connect** tertiary education to the **workplace**
5. **Innovate** to drive participation and success

RETHINKING
AND
REVITALISING
TERTIARY
EDUCATION
IN AUSTRALIA

| Peter Dawkins | Peter Hurley | Peter Ne



THE ROLE OF
UNIVERSITIES
WITHIN THE
BROADER TERTIARY
EDUCATION SECTOR
ROUNDTABLE REPORT

Peter Dawkins, Jen Jackson, Peter Noonan



<https://bit.ly/2H4nmR9>

Melbourne Centre for the Study of Higher Education

Developing a New Vision for
Post-Secondary Education:
Ideas for Government

Policy discussions following the 2019 Federal Election

MONASH
COMMISSION

THREE RECOMMENDATIONS
FOR RENEWAL OF
POST-COMPULSORY
EDUCATION IN AUSTRALIA
THE REPORT OF THE 2018 MONASH COMMISSION

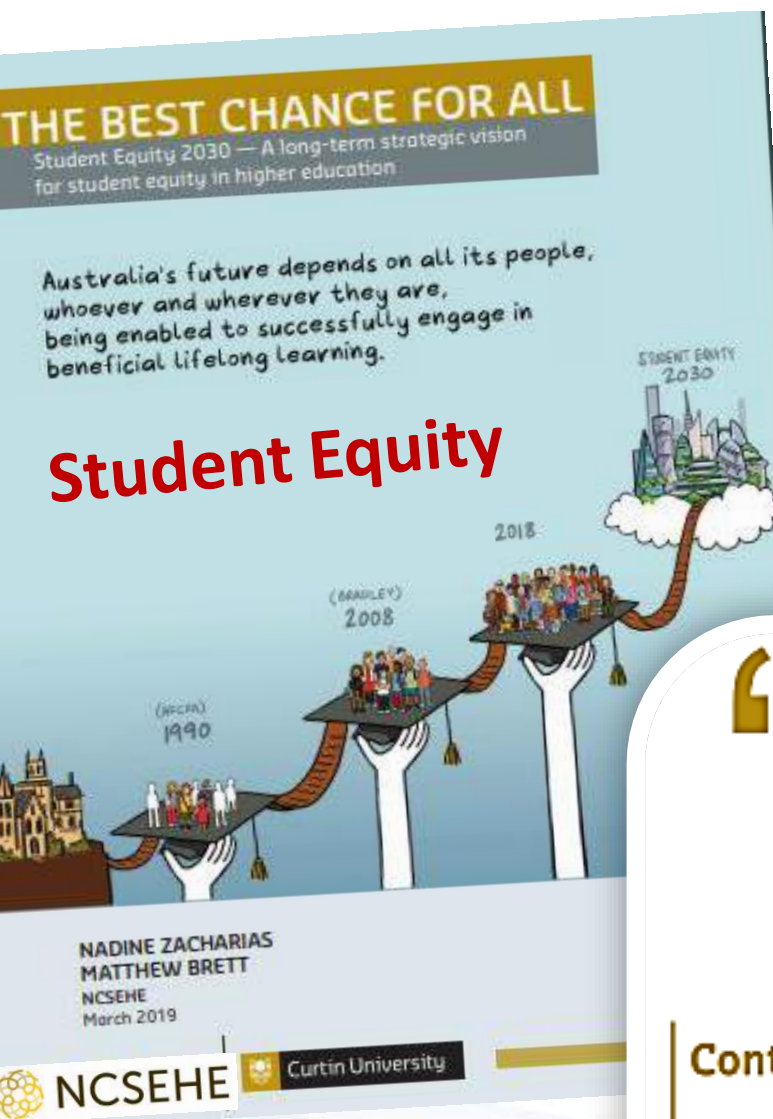
REFORMING POST-SECONDARY
EDUCATION IN AUSTRALIA
Perspectives from Australia's Dual
Sector Universities



<https://www.voced.edu.au/content/ngv%3A82609>

<https://bit.ly/2UBfo9X>

<http://www.mitchellinstitute.org.au/papers/rethinking-and-revitalising-tertiary-education/>



Student Equity

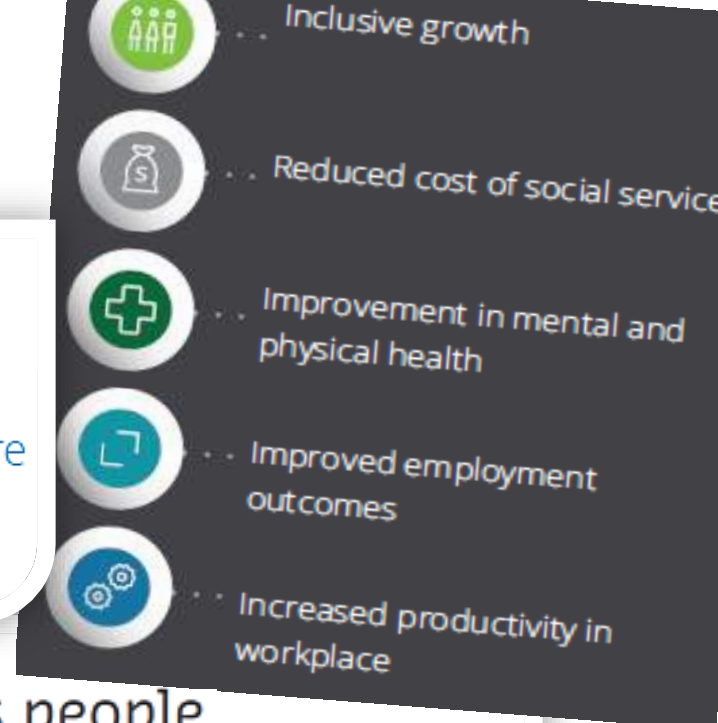
The economic benefits of improving social inclusion

A report commissioned by SBS
August 2019

Deloitte
Access **Economics**



Based on our modelling and analysis, we estimate the economic dividend to Australia from having a more inclusive society to be **\$12.7 billion annually.**



“ Australia’s future depends on all its people, whoever and wherever they are, being enabled to successfully engage in beneficial lifelong learning.

Contributing to:

A fair, democratic, prosperous, and enterprising nation; reconciliation with Indigenous Australia; cultural, civic and intellectual life.

Achieved by:

An inclusively designed system with multiple entry and exit points; proactive removal of barriers to participation; and tailored support where needed.

Accountable through:

An integrated approach to measuring success at institutional and national levels to align performance with policy objectives.

https://www2.deloitte.com/au/benefits-improving-social-inclusion/?lrs=36ab972f-e23a-4b81-a10a-efe44bab990f&trk=elevate_li

https://www.ncsehe.edu.au/wp-content/uploads/2019/03/Equity2030_FINAL.pdf

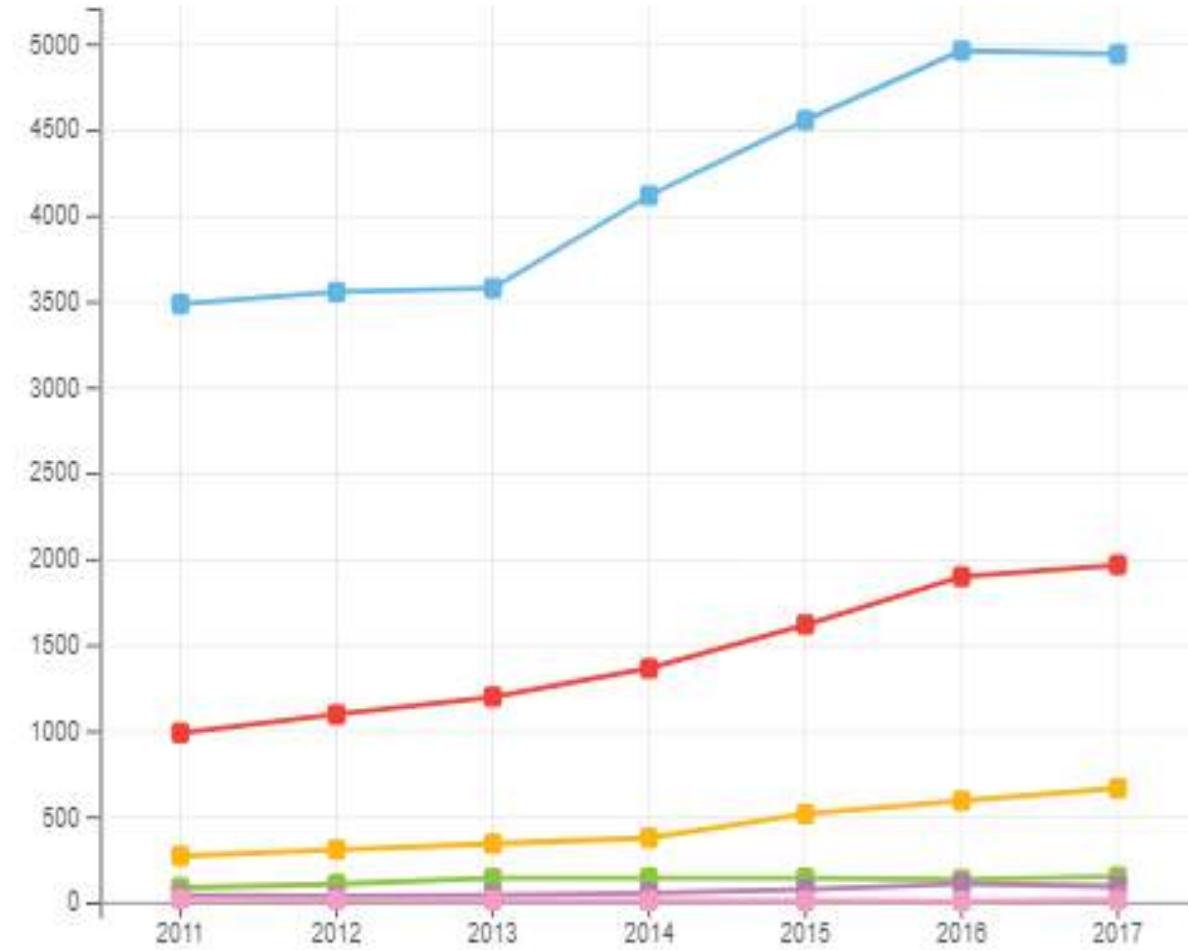
Federation Uni's equity contribution



NCSEHE

National Centre for Student
Equity in Higher Education

Federation University Australia Equity Student Groups - Enrolments



■ Non-English Speaking Background
 ■ Indigenous
 ■ Disability
 ■ Low SES
 ■ Regional
 ■ Remote



Student equity data — New NCSEHE interactive resource

A new NCSEHE [data site](https://www.ncsehe.edu.au/data/) launched today will allow researchers, practitioners, institutions, students and policymakers to examine trends in higher education enrolment in Australia in recent years, and in relation to equity group enrolment.

<https://www.ncsehe.edu.au/data/>

Equity Group	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
■ Non-English Speaking Background	84	105	139	142	141	132	148
■ Indigenous	38	36	41	54	75	107	92
■ Disability	269	306	340	374	513	590	663
■ Low SES	986	1,092	1,196	1,361	1,616	1,895	1,964
■ Regional	3,483	3,553	3,575	4,115	4,553	4,958	4,938
■ Remote	18	16	11	11	8	6	14



The Big [Cognitive Dissonance] Four (1)

Has the university funding freeze caused commencing enrolments to fall?

Oct 29, 2019

<https://bit.ly/2WMklqe>

OCTOBER 29, 2019 ANDREW NORTON LEAVE A COMMENT

La Trobe University. Picture: Stuart McEvoy

<https://bit.ly/2Q03bJT>

Gains from giving opportunity to disadvantaged students are now at risk

JULY 3, 2019

ANDREW HARVEY and MICHAEL LUCKMAN

Under DDS 2008-2017:

Growth rate for commencing

- Students with a **disability**: >3x ↑ than for domestic commencing overall
- **Indigenous** students: >2x ↑
- LSES >1.5x ↑

From 2018: cap on funded places “...already has led to an overall decline in regional student numbers and a dramatic reduction of growth for other equity groups”.

2018 Caps had immediate impact on student growth & equity:

- **Indigenous** growth ↓ 55% (frm avg growth rate over past 9yrs)
- **LSES** growth ↓ 83% (frm past 9 yr avg)
- **2000 fewer regional** students enrolled in first ½ 2018 than in first ½ 2017.

SRHE *The Society for Research into Higher Education*



The Big [Cognitive Dissonance] Four (2)

- **Costs of supporting LSES students**
- **Data from 37 Aust unis over 10 yrs**



Supporting disadvantaged students is more expensive than you think
April 12, 2019 by SRHE News Blog | 2 Comments



By Marcia Devlin

April 12, 2019

...we found that universities that are strongly prioritising or enacting **missions to address disadvantage have higher costs than universities with other missions.**

...the **costs of supporting low SES students are four [PG] to six [UG] times higher** than those of supporting medium and high SES students...

...the **kind of additional support needed** by students from LSES backgrounds includes: **outreach support** to raise aspiration and relevant individual capital prior to enrolment; **academic, personal and financial support** while at university; and in some cases, **support to care for students with highly complex needs.**

More regional Australians are moving to the city to study. Few return when they've finished.

“More regional Australians are going to uni when they finish school, and...increasingly moving to the city to study.

Fewer than a third of regional students commencing uni in **2005** made the move to a city. **By 2010**, that number had risen to **half**, and **by 2015** it was **57 per cent**.”

Also

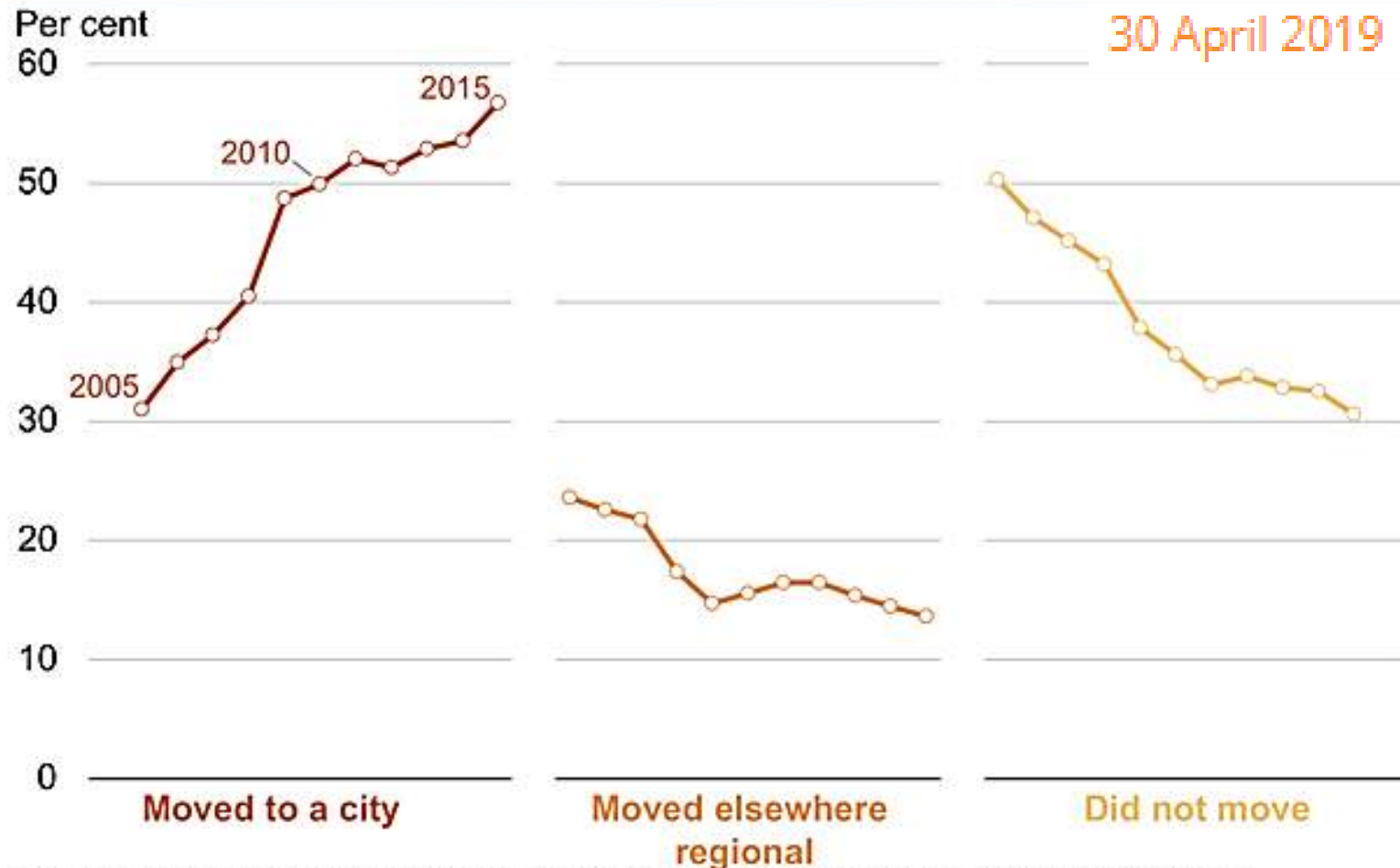
- The **higher the ATAR** the **more likely** a move to the city.
- **Regional students who move are unlikely to return**

The Big [Cognitive Dissonance] Four (3)

GRATTAN
Institute

30 April 2019

Young regional students are increasingly moving to the city



Notes: 17 to 20-year-olds commencing a bachelor degree in the given year. Remoteness Areas of year 12 home postcode (moved from) and campus postcode (moved to) used to determine moving behaviour. For complete methodology, see *University attrition: what helps and what hinders university completion?* (2018, section A.3.1). Source: Grattan analysis of Department of Education's student data collection (various years).

The productivity uplift from better outcomes for our university students

18 September 2019

18 September 2019

EY
Building a better working world

THE AUSTRALIAN

Sept 25

2019




The Big [Cognitive Dissonance] Four (4)

THE AUSTRALIAN New policy goal to boost productivity

“new **path for HE reform**, focusing on ways to boost econ growth by matching students’ learning to the needs of the job market.


...commissioned by Educ Minister Dan Tehan from EY, [it] says **HE needs to be agile, focused, innovative, informed and efficient**... a more productive HE system could add **\$3.1bn** a year to GDP by 2030.”

“Mismatch between education & jobs”

 **Increased Wage Premium**

Better employment outcomes through increased wage premiums for graduates could contribute an additional \$2.7 billion per annum to the economy in 2030



 **Completion Rates for Graduates**

The 9 year completion rate for domestic graduates has fallen from 75% in 2009 to 66% in 2017. Improved completion rates, could save \$408m in economic resources in 2030



 **Total Productivity Uplift**

The productivity uplift from improving employment outcomes for university students and addressing the falling completion rates is estimated to be \$3.1 billion per annum in 2030

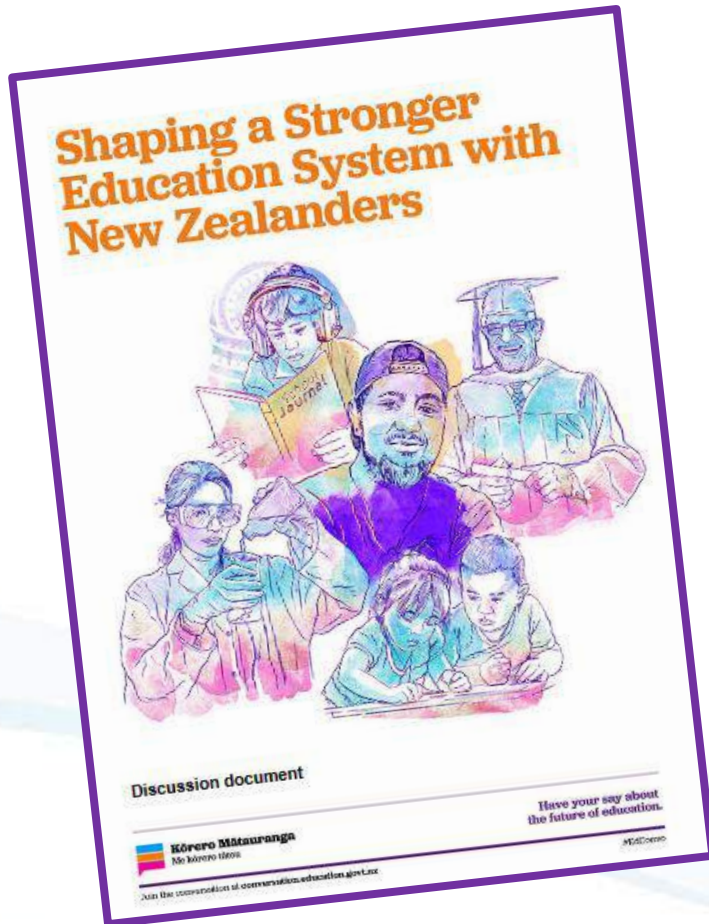
Wouldn't it be nice...

A national lifelong learning/education strategy

NZ: Connecting and engaging for an education ecosystem

“An integrated approach to the strategic priorities we set across learning, schooling & tertiary education – driven by the following **five strategic objectives**:

- **Objective 1: Learners at the centre** – learners with their whānau are at the centre of education
- **Objective 2: Barrier-free access** – great education opportunities & outcomes are within reach for every learner
- **Objective 3: Quality teaching & leadership** – quality teaching & leadership make the difference for learners & their whānau
- **Objective 4: Future of learning & work** – learning that is relevant to the lives of New Zealanders today & throughout their lives
- **Objective 5: World class inclusive public education** – New Zealand education is trusted & sustainable.



What to do....

- **Engage & Connect** for Student Success/**Retention**
- **Join** the (review) **dots**
- **Data!** (NB **USI** (Unique Student Identifier) [National School Reform Agreement](#) Reform 6)
- Embed **retention** effort across **whole-of-institution**
- **Mainstream** all institutional efforts with a *tertiary* focus
- **Humanise** the experience: to support students, families, communities & each other
- Apply **pedagogies** that assure inclusiveness & quality of the “educational conditions” over student lifecycle

#Transition Pedagogy: Curriculum that engages & connects



Connecting all institutional dots for engagement & to mitigate structural inequity (Naylor & Mifsud, 2019)

“...while identification of ‘pressure points’ is important, institutions must prioritise and respond to these areas according to institutional need and in individual ways.”

Structural inequality in higher education: Creating institutional cultures that enable all students

Ryan Naylor and Nathan Mifsud

2019

Make tomorrow better.

ncsehe.edu.au

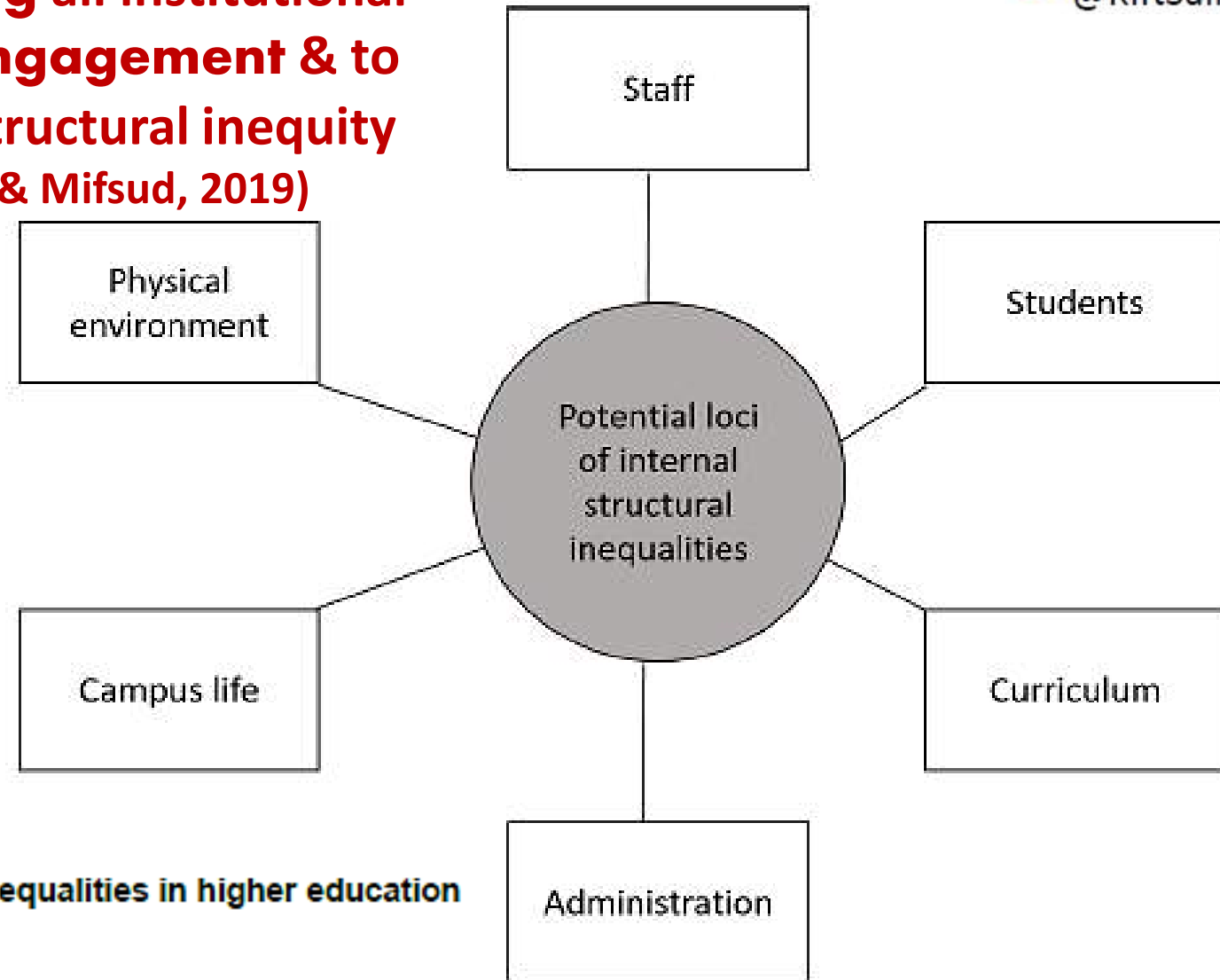


Figure 1: Internal structural inequalities in higher education

“The **administration area** is particularly likely to present opportunities for transitioning to structurally enabling approaches; institutional leaders and relevant staff should therefore focus attention there to reduce structural barriers.”



Transitions

Professions

Curriculum

What if we connected
up all we do?

Alumni

Support

Social

VocEd

Physical
Space

C21st Skills

Schools

Reviews

Industry

Global
Citizenry

Social
Inclusion &
Mobility

Data

Society

Students

Staff

Online

Families

Micro
Credentials

Engagement

Research

Communities

Lifelong
Learning

Mental
Health

Government

Careers

Public
Good

 @KiftSally

What if **connection** and **engagement** were inescapable ...

what if ...



- We articulated our [HE] place in a **connected** educational ecosystem
- We **connected** agendas & change agents
- We pursued **connected** global citizenry
- *And* the **connected** continuum of lifelong learning
- Based on our **connected** humanity
- **Connecting** education *with* opportunity for all

What if *we all took responsibility* for **connecting** sectors, staff, students, curricula, learning environments, communities, industries and professions as a *joint enterprise with good purpose and empathy*?

A connected world...

Figure 2. Time to reach 50 million users

<https://www2.deloitte.com/us/en/insights/focus/disruptive-strategy-patterns-case-studies/anticipating-disruptive-strategy-of-market-entrants.html>

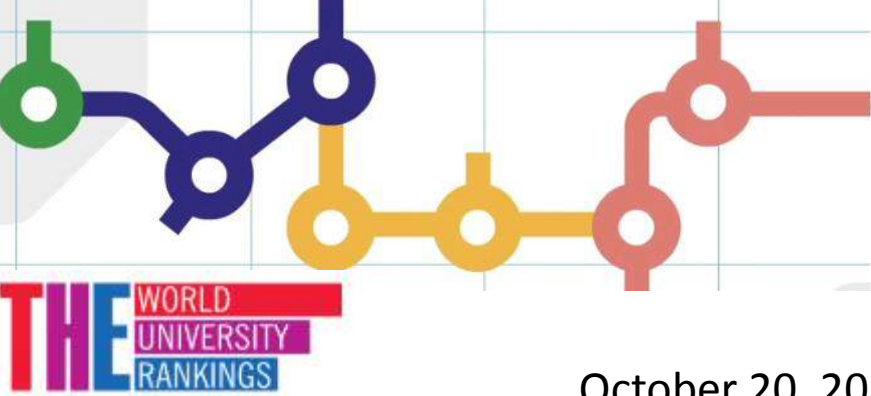
For educational opportunity... PK: A TAFE graduate...



<https://www.theaustralian.com.au/nation/politics/let-budget-surplus-go-paul-keating-urges-scott-morrison/news-story/0e9fb8b55b68a3a7b11edc884184cb0c>

“...loosen fiscal policy to stimulate the economy... turbocharg[e] vocational education and training...

because people [are] more globally connected, the economy and society [are] more horizontal and collaborative but more need[s] to be done to equip younger generations to make the most of the opportunities of the digital economy.”



October 20, 2017

'Arrogant' universities seen as out of touch and ripe for cutbacks

Glyn Davis, vice-chancellor at the University of Melbourne, on a 'rising chorus' of complaints about universities in the UK and Australia

"Glyn Davis...on a 'rising chorus' of complaints about universities in the UK and Australia"



Connecting with our social purpose/ 3rd mission & honouring our social contract

Davis: ...the idea of **engagement**: creating meaningful links between a university and its many constituencies, and communicating the fact that this is what we do...

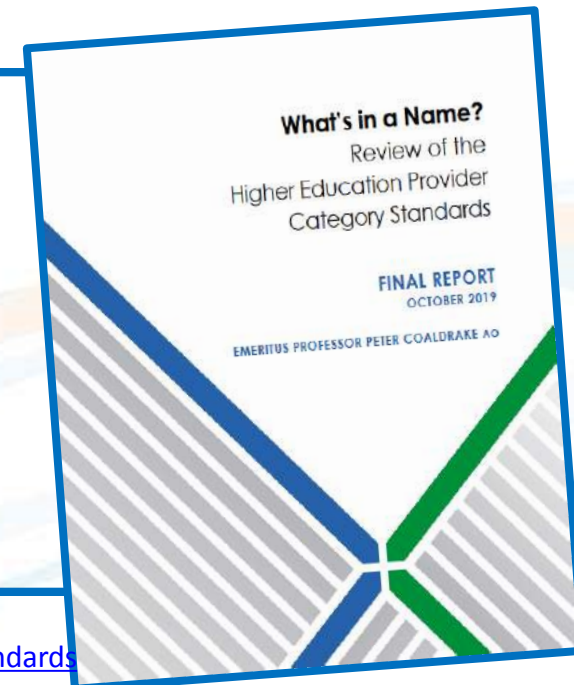
...build[ing] a stronger base in society – among graduates as among those who never attend university – is imperative if universities are to speak above the din of the rising chorus."

Recommendation 6

"Requirements related to industry engagement, civic leadership, and community engagement should be introduced or bolstered in the university categories of the [HE] Provider Category Standards..."

<https://www.education.gov.au/review-higher-education-provider-category-standards>

<https://www.timeshighereducation.com/blog/arrogant-universities-seen-out-touch-and-ripe-cutbacks>



Imagine Ballarat without a uni – Why university towns matter

The Courier

Professor Helen Bartlett
3 February 2020



Ballarat benefits from being a university town

At the start of a new decade, Australia's regional towns are poised to play a more significant part in our country's nation-building.

Despite the allure of our big cities, for many they are becoming unaffordable, congested and stressful places to live.

People are increasingly looking to regional towns for a different experience for their children, their work and retirement.



CELEBRATION: Federation University's head campus in Ballarat makes wide and profound contributions to the the community.

Connection for

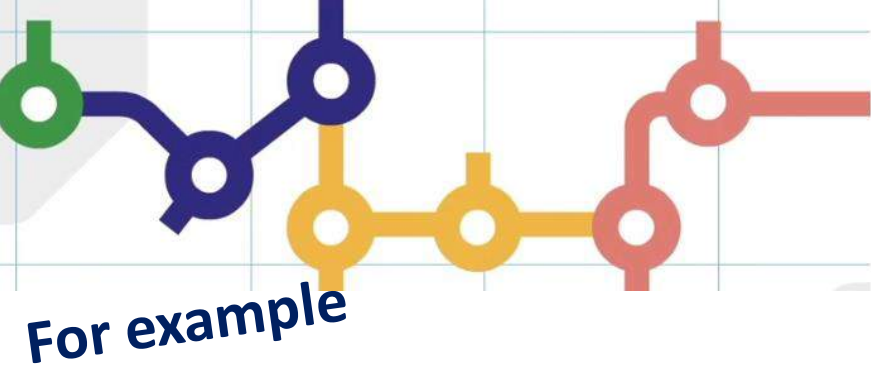
@KiftSally

“social & economic transformation”

How does a university presence benefit a regional town?

- Domestic HE students : Fed Uni's 2018 contribution of **>\$230m (4%) of Ballarat economy.**
- **70%** of regional uni undergrads **employed locally**
- Fed Uni a **major employer**: >1,000 global staff at Ballarat campuses contributing to regional intellectual & cultural diversity (including the arts)
- Fed Uni **Ballarat Technology Park**: >2,000 jobs provided thru 60 enterprises & **drives Ballarat entrepreneurship & innovation.**
- **In crises**, regional unis are valuable resources (eg, re emergency accommodation, volunteers, health professionals, support for injured wildlife & research capability).
- **Facilitate partnerships w & b/w uni, govt & industry**: research collaboration, business innovation, industry partnerships, student internships, graduate employment and civic engagement.

<https://www.thecourier.com.au/story/6611738/imagine-ballarat-without-a-uni-why-university-towns-matter/>

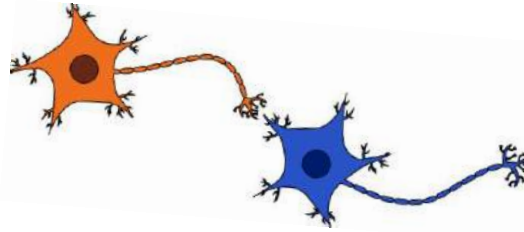


Human(e) **connections** in our educational context

The '**sociality**' of higher education

Supportive, productive, respectful, engaging, professional, energising, mentoring ...

- Students with students
- Students with staff
- Students with support & services
- Students with learning *and* with their learning environments
- Students & staff with industry & alumni; networks & careers
- Students & staff with place and space
- All staff with all staff – professional, academic & sessional
- Universities with students' families & friends: 'family capital' (O'Shea & Stone)
- All with Indigenous knowledges, culture & educational approaches



STUDENTS AS PARTNERS

FAMILIES AS PARTNERS

PARTNERS AS PARTNERS

Human(e) connections for the common educational good

Supporting first-in-family students *and* the importance of 'Family Capital'

O'Shea (2014, 2016): "Engaging Families to Engage Students": important role of "**Family Capital**" (after Bourdieu's social & cultural capital).

- How might we **engage** with learners' families & communities in productive, sustained and supportive ways?

The screenshot shows the homepage of the First-in-Family website. At the top, there is a navigation bar with links: Home, Stories, Success, Kids, Family, Teaching & Support, and OLT Fellowship. The main heading reads "Welcome to the First-in-Family website!". Below this, a paragraph explains the website's purpose: "This website is designed for current and intending university students who are the first in their immediate family to go to university, as well as for their families and for all those who work within the higher education sector. The resources created especially for this website are based upon our research with students who were the first in their family to enrol in a university. Our project team are dedicated to supporting individuals as they move into the university environment, click here to view our research presentations at the first in family forum." A call to action says "Scroll down to learn more about this project." and "We warmly welcome your feedback about the site." Below this is a quote from a woman: "I can give it a shot! I am surely not that stupid. I tried a unit, and to my own shock, I got a credit!"

The cover of the Churchill Fellowship Report features a black and white portrait of Winston Churchill. The title "CHURCHILL Fellowship Report" is prominently displayed. Below the title, it says "Report by Professor Sarah O'Shea, 2017 Churchill Fellow". At the bottom, a blue banner contains the text: "The Churchill Fellowship to explore best practices in engaging and retaining students who are the first in their families to attend university." The Churchill Trust logo is also visible.

OVERARCHING PRINCIPLES AND STRATEGIES FOR SUPPORTING FIRST-IN-FAMILY STUDENTS AND THEIR FAMILIES
Associate Professor Sarah O' Shea

O'Shea (2018):
13 Recs for
Best Practice

<https://www.churchilltrust.com.au/fellows/detail/4281/Sarah+O'Shea>

The Power of Narrative/ Success Story Telling



Student Success Stories



Harnessing intellectual talent to address rural health disadvantage and stoicism



Trainee doctor Joe Davidson was born in Victoria's Latrobe Valley and is keen to return to the disadvantaged region upon completion of his studies to take up a country practice.

This region is Australia's first to be formally declared a Health Innovation Zone in recognition of what is officially described as a historical statistical deficit in health, well-being and longevity.

At Federation University Australia (FedUni), Joe completed a Bachelor of Biomedical Science with such distinction that he won entry to a highly competitive Bachelor of Medicine/Bachelor of Surgery course at Deakin University. The two universities do not have a formal articulation arrangement, but FedUni's biomedical science meets the prerequisite for entry to medicine at Deakin.

The Latrobe Valley is host to three giant power stations. FedUni has partnerships with the local power industries, and infrastructure providers to help solve problems such as coal emissions, water treatment issues, airshed issues and biodiversity.

"So the regional areas, Federation and the Gippsland region, have given me the opportunity. My main aim is to help improve equitable access to healthcare for rural and regional populations, and help address the rural doctor shortage."

"It's a little way away at the moment, but I'd like to return to where I grew up and give back to the local community. I want to be a part of that to improve everybody's health."

Joe and his brother are the first in their family to earn a degree. Joe's journey to first year medicine began more than 15 years ago in secondary school when he first realised he wanted to be either a doctor or an engineer. Joe started engineering at university straight after school, but circumstances intervened and he had to quit.

Over the next 15 years, Joe worked in a series of office, technical, management, manufacturing and service jobs to

support himself and his family, including working in a mine near Darwin.

It was during his spare time in the Northern Territory that his intellectual life reasserted itself, and ultimately led him back home to country Victoria, and FedUni.

"There was something burning inside me the whole time I was working. I was always inquisitive and always thinking. It got to the point that I was losing interest in jobs a lot quicker."

"Working in the mine, I was working two weeks on and one week off. During the week off I'd fill my time by reading books, studying drive and just gaining knowledge."

Eventually Joe realised that if he was drawn to studying so much in his spare time, he should go back and get a degree in what he always wanted to do. But much had changed. The last time Joe had been at university, the course was delivered on a combination of the blackboard and an overhead projector.

"So it was a huge adjustment to the new technology and making the change to doing everything online."

Joe credits FedUni's small lecture sizes, high quality lecturers, balance of theory and practice, and sense of belonging with support of a community, with enabling him to get the most out of his learning. So much so that he has achieved the rare feat for a recent graduate of publication of a first authored work in peer-reviewed journal, Cell Biology International.

"Federation biomed was a really well-developed course from start to the finish. When I started I didn't know what a bacterium was or have any real understanding of biology. I didn't study it in year 12. The course builds from the basic knowledge all the way through to being proficient in lab work and being able to critique scientific papers."

Understanding rural realities was essential to effective health provision, he says. Medical practice in a rural setting is characterised by people tending to present later, and often having significant barriers to accessing healthcare.

"They're perhaps a little more stoic so they present with more acute problems or problems that have progressed further."

"Simply being able to commute or get time away from their work to come and see a local practitioner can be hard. Hopefully access to healthcare will change with the availability of technology, e-health and teleconferencing. So there's an exciting future there."

Rural student helping the addicted find their place in society



Olga Torgovikova had intended to do PhD research into why people take decisions that cause them harm until authorities found there was an urgent need to try and rehabilitate ice (crystal methamphetamine) addicts in her local area. Now she wants to shift from research to actual counselling.

Australia's problem with methamphetamine has become acute and widespread across capital cities and regional areas and is showing no signs of decline.

To put the size of the Australian methamphetamine market into context, according to the Australian Criminal Intelligence Commission (2018, p 89), the total combined estimated weight of cocaine, MDMA (ecstasy) and heroin consumed each year now equals just 60 per cent of the estimated weight of methamphetamine (ice) consumed each year.

These substances cause potential harm through addiction, health risks, and criminal and antisocial behaviour.

"Now I'm reconsidering going straight to a PhD and thinking of going on to do the clinical masters, as long as I get the marks, and then start working locally."

What made me think about this is that my main interest addition in psychology and research plus the recent Victorian budget announced that they are going to build a \$400 million rehabilitation facility for drug addicts.

It says she now wants to work in the new Victorian rehabilitation centre to help address the local problem of drug addiction and then go onto a PhD on the role of drugs in addiction.

Olga knows about it. I enjoy helping people. I have a wanted to understand why people make decisions that harm them. Substances have always fascinated me.

It takes Olga time to get to her honours year. It's just been academic. She migrated from Russia and lived with her grandparents. Despite their Olga has experienced tough times and financial

hardship as a single mother.

"Because I don't have a lot of support with my little one, there have been times where I got him to kinder in the morning to get myself to uni for a lecture. I found I came to uni and just bowed my eyes out all day. I still come along, but I struggled."

Despite her tough personal journey, Olga wants to improve treatment for drug addicts generally and especially figure out how to prevent children from turning to drugs.

"I had a second cousin who was a heroin addict. It was quite interesting watching the family dynamics as a child. What was going on with him and not understanding and getting explained things."

"What I've learnt over time is that addiction doesn't come from people just wanting to be silly. It comes from them wanting to hide some sort of feelings and escape their reality. So, I think we need to make a fair bit of different changes to improve the life of people."

Underlying these aims is Olga's concern for trauma and broken families.

"I'm interested in people who, because of their environmental circumstances, have less chance in the world. So, what I want to achieve is reducing the number of people who live dysfunctionally. I want people to have their spot in the world, their place in society."

Olga's vision of wanting to help people on their journeys from addiction to recovery has been aided by the design of Federation's (Federation University Australia, FedUni) coursework for psychology.

"I didn't think of myself as a people's person. That's why I wasn't going to do counselling. That's why I wanted to go into research and learn about people, figure out the connections and patterns and what's going on."

"But this semester by doing the practical work, I'm learning that I possibly am suited to it. I'm quite non-judgemental, learning how to present empathy, which I thought I didn't really have."

For Olga, attending FedUni in face-to-face mode has been a boon.

"I really, really enjoy it. I really enjoy coming to lectures, enjoy coming to the tutorials. It's a really great opportunity to understand and be able to ask questions and clarify problems clearly in the class. I also find the lecturers extremely supportive and easy and approachable, which has been really great."

[http://www.run.edu.au/resources/RUN_StudentSuccessStories_email%20\(1\).pdf](http://www.run.edu.au/resources/RUN_StudentSuccessStories_email%20(1).pdf)

Writing style guide for communicating with students



Federation University Australia

Writing checklist

PLANNING

- ☐ Do I know who my target audience is?
- ☐ Have I chosen the best method to communicate with them?
- ☐ Is there a clear, single purpose to my message?

Have I thought about the benefits to my audience?
Will the audience know what I want them to do or understand?

DRAFT

- ☐ Is my subject line engaging and descriptive?
- ☐ Is my message logically structured with the important information at the top?
- ☐ Have I told the reader everything they need to know?
- ☐ Have I told them how to find more information?
- ☐ Have I used clear and simple language?
- ☐ Is my message positive and encouraging?

EDIT

- ☐ Have I reviewed my writing using the Writing Toolkit?

REVIEW

- ☐ Have I tested my message or asked for feedback?
- ☐ Have I rewritten my message if necessary?

PROOFREAD

- ☐ Has my message been thoroughly proofread?

DESIGN AND LAYOUT

- ☐ Does my document follow the FedUni brand guidelines?

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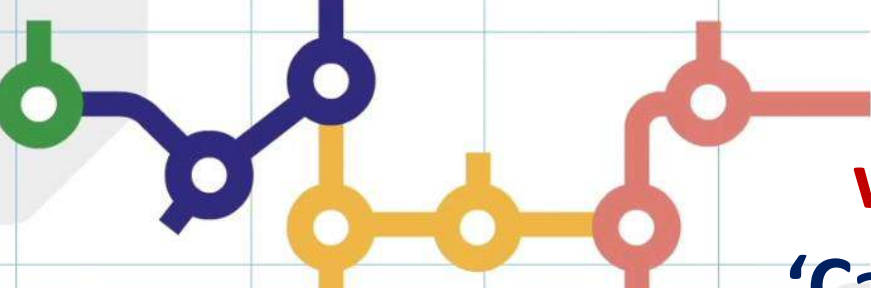
SECTION 5

Before and after

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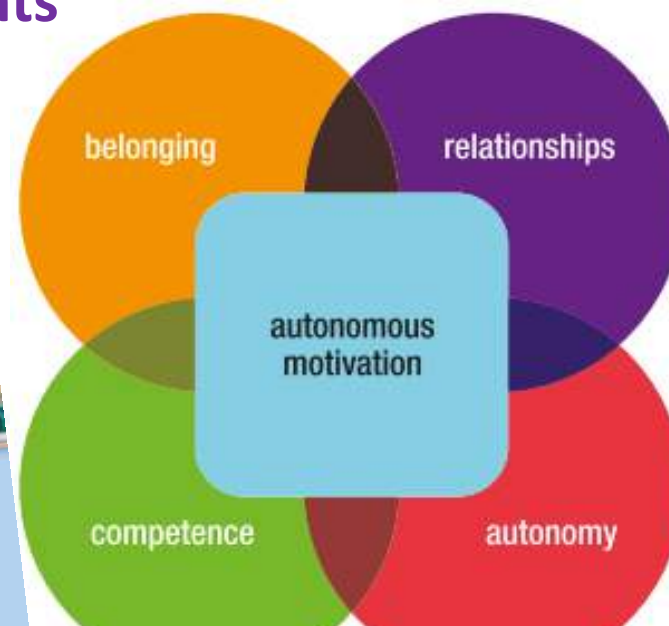
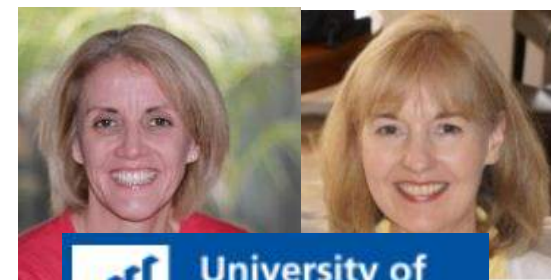
When **connectedness** is enhanced, might wellbeing be improved? (AKA an 'ethic of care')

'Care-collaborate-connect'

- For staff & students, given learning is a profoundly social exp (in an increasingly digital, changeable & complex world)
- HE has been described as an 'anxiety machine' for staff
- Research: high levels of psych distress & other symptoms of mental health difficulties among uni students

INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR
University Health & Wellbeing

<https://www.healthyuniversities.org/>



5 wellbeing essentials
=
mental wellbeing

Pressure Vessels:
The epidemic of poor
mental health among
higher education staff

By Liz Morrish
With a Foreword by Professor Mike Thomas



ENHANCING STUDENT
MENTAL WELLBEING:
A Handbook for Academic Educators



Chi Baik, Wendy Larcombe, Abi Brooker, Johanna Wyn,
Lee Allen, Matthew Brett, Rachael Field, Richard James

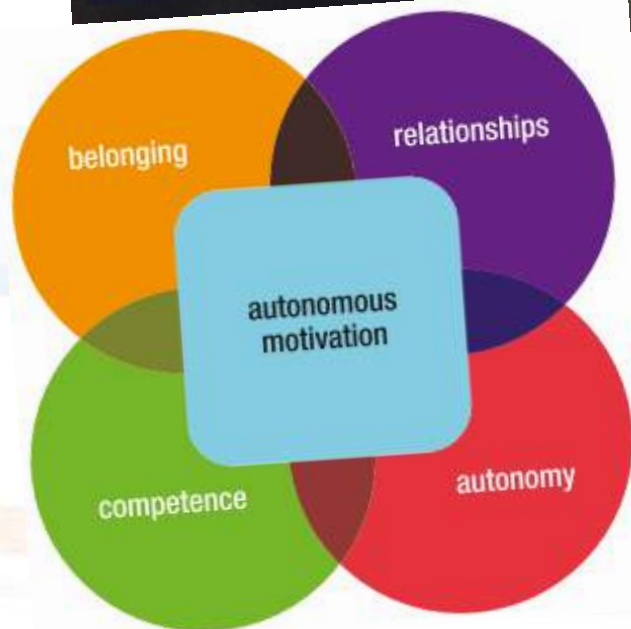
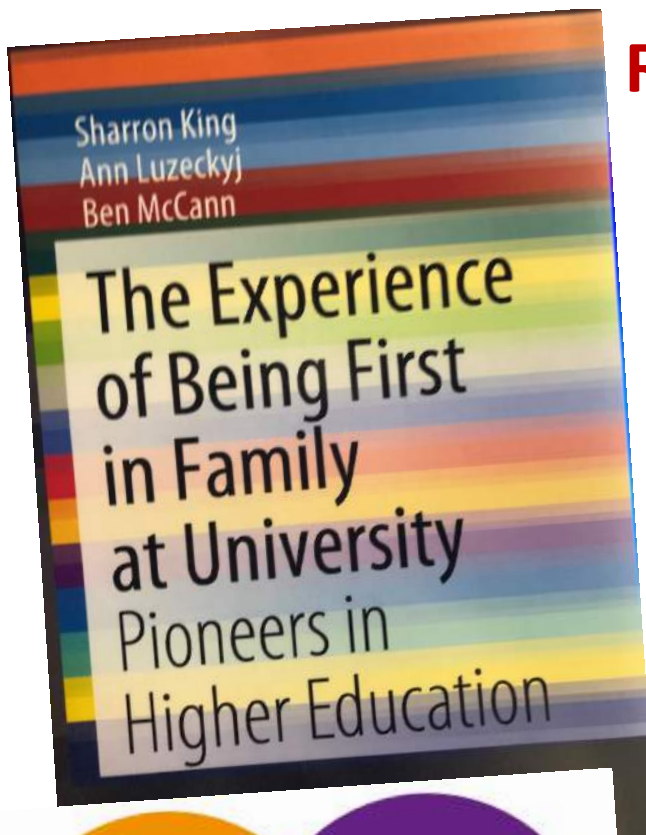
23 May 2019

unistudentwellbeing.edu.au

<https://www.hepi.ac.uk/2019/05/23/new-report-shows-big-increase-in-demand-for-mental-health-support-among-higher-education-staff/>

<http://unistudentwellbeing.edu.au/>

 @KiftSally



Reframing for a narrative of **connectedness** & care...

@KiftSally

apprehensive *uncertain* *overwhelming*
stressful *dislocated* *confusing*
“Hardest year of my life” *nervous* *shocking*
“Thrown in at the deep end and expected to swim”
hell *isolated* *alien* *terrified* *Unprepared*
unknown *worried* *scared*
lonely “A fish out of water”



<http://cliparting.com/free-dr-seuss-clip-art-14568/>

= mental wellbeing

<https://www.springer.com/in/book/9789811509209#aboutBook>

Creating a “relentless welcome”

Opening keynote: Professor Peter Felten, Elon University

“...students need ‘relentless welcome’ that comes from *interacting regularly with staff and peers* who communicate a sense of *care and belonging* through simple practices..”

EG: Taking an individual interest; *an ethic of care*:

- How are you?
- Attempting to know names: eg, Name Tents
- Peer mentors

Relationships matter: Moving relationship-rich experiences from the periphery to the centre of teaching and learning

“Relentless welcome”

(David Scobey, Bringing Theory to Practice)

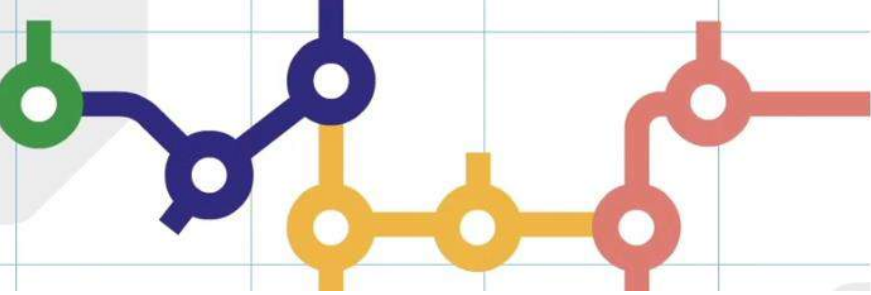
“Inescapable opportunities for meaningful interactions”

(Joianne Smith, Oakton Community College)

“A constellation mentors, including mentors of the moment”

(Brad Johnson, U.S. Naval Academy)





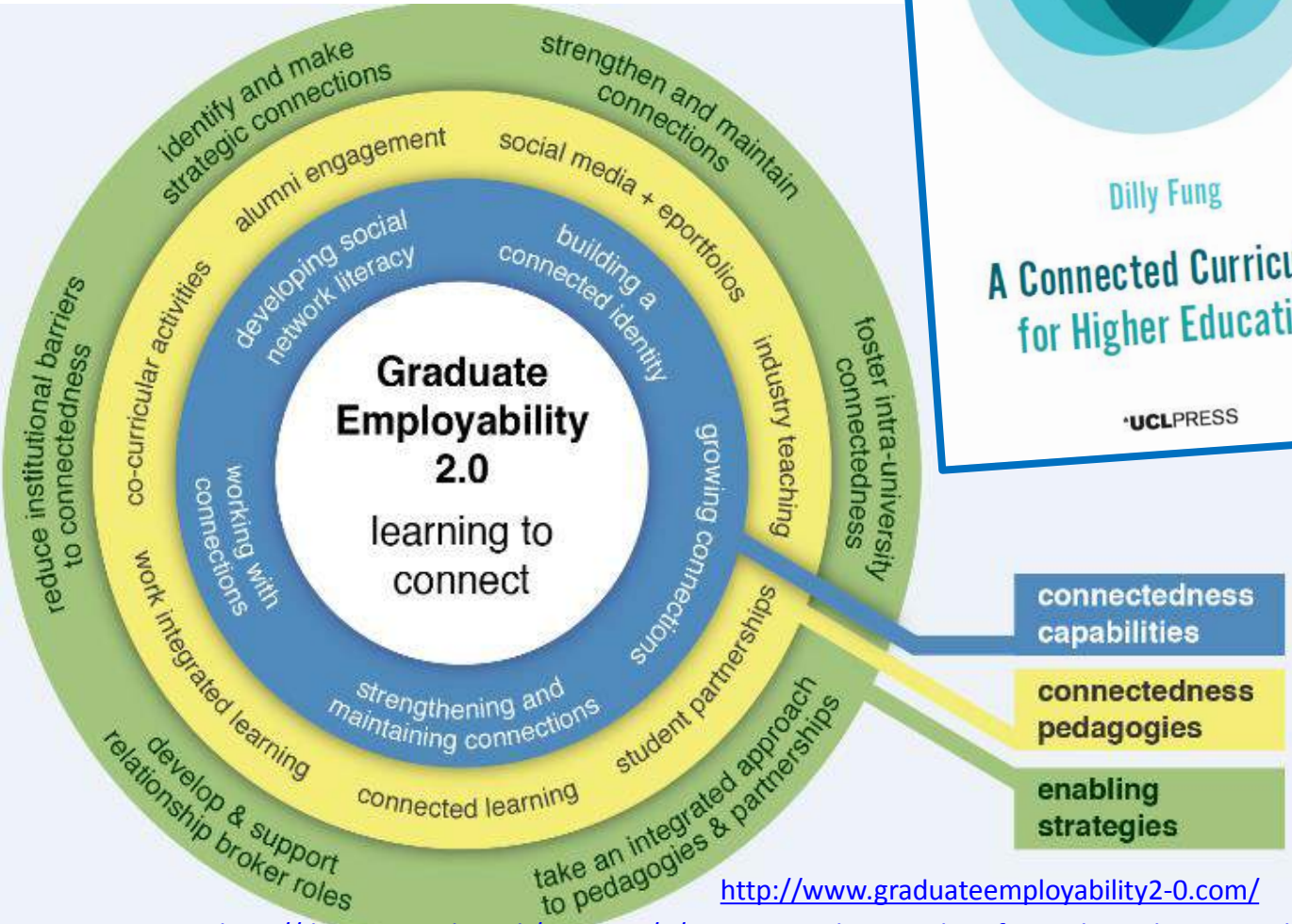
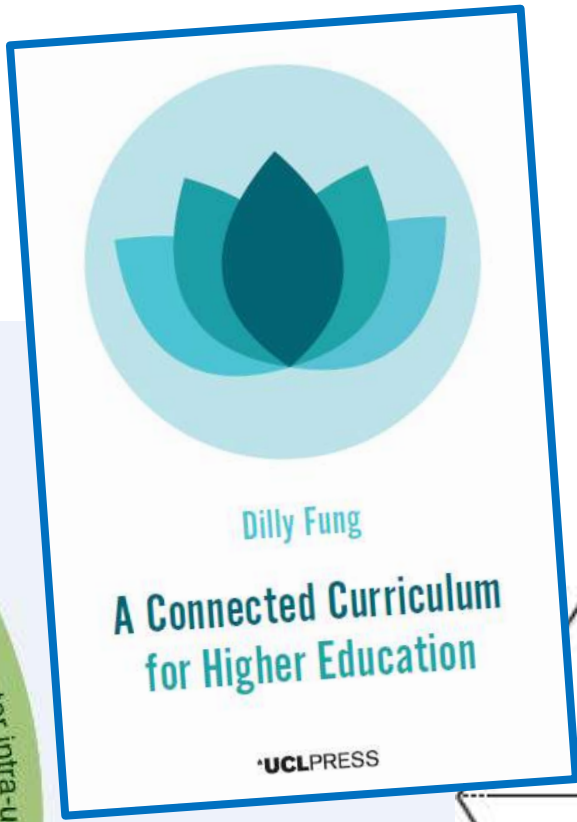
Connected curriculum focus for a **connected** student experience



- Connected **curriculum** – inclusive, supportive, organised, scaffolded...
 - **Pedagogies of connection & integration** – curriculum as connector/glue (e.g. integrative learning; scaffolding as connectivity; learning communities; teaching research nexus)
- Connected (just-in-time, just-enough, just-for-me...) **support**
- Connected **delivery**: integrated, purposeful, intentional, blended, personalised...
 - EG: UTS moving to Canvass – adopting explicit, whole-of-course approach to reduce student confusion re LMS inconsistency & enable explicit links between subjects
- Graduate **employability** 2.0 (Bridgestock) – *learning to* connect/ network
- Connections **beyond the classroom**: to innovation, enterprise, entrepreneurial
- Connected formal, informal, non-formal & short-form **learning**;
Credit, RPL; Micro-credentials...

Graduate Employability 2.0 Pedagogies of connection

93% students want to improve their networks & networking skills for prof purposes



<http://www.graduateemployability2-0.com/>

<http://discovery.ucl.ac.uk/1558776/1/A-Connected-Curriculum-for-Higher-Education.pdf>

@KiftSally

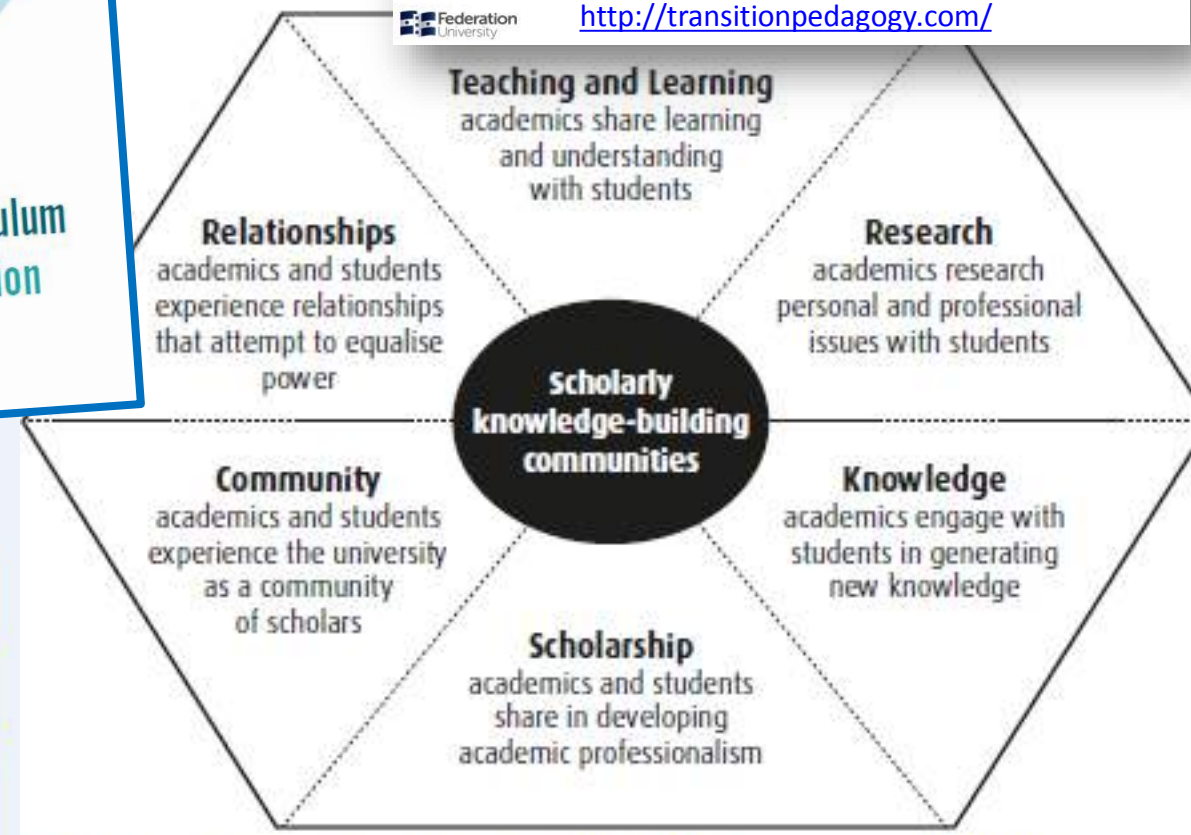
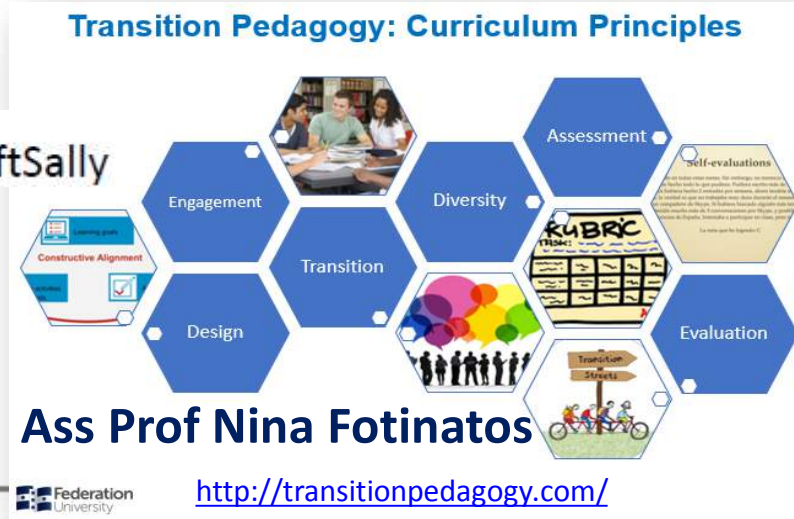


Fig. 2.2 New model of the relationship between teaching and research. (Adapted from Brew 2006, 32)

Connectedness for Student Success (reframed):






HIGHER EDUCATION RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT
<https://doi.org/10.1080/07294360.2019.1664999>

9 Oct 2019

 **Routledge**
Taylor & Francis Group

<https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/07294360.2019.1664999>  OPEN ACCESS  Check for updates

Persisting students' explanations of and emotional responses to academic failure

Rola Ajjawi ^a, Mary Dracup ^b, Nadine Zacharias ^{a*}, Sue Bennett ^c and David Boud ^{a,d,e}

“emotional burden of academic failure also on students who persist.”

“Students [who failed] were critical of and wanted to feel more connected to and supported by their academic staff and the university. This finding indicates that a new orientation to belonging is required given the changing nature of our student body and the rise in part-time and online students (Thomas, 2012).”

<https://theconversation.com/failing-a-subject-isnt-just-the-students-fault-universities-can-and-should-help-126195>

<https://www.ncsehe.edu.au/publications/success-failure-higher-education-uneven-playing-fields/>



“FY students use first experiences of assessment to calibrate their expectations, their performance and their own suitability for higher education. **Their sense of belonging in the higher education institution... is linked to the experience of success.**”

Success and failure in higher education on uneven playing fields

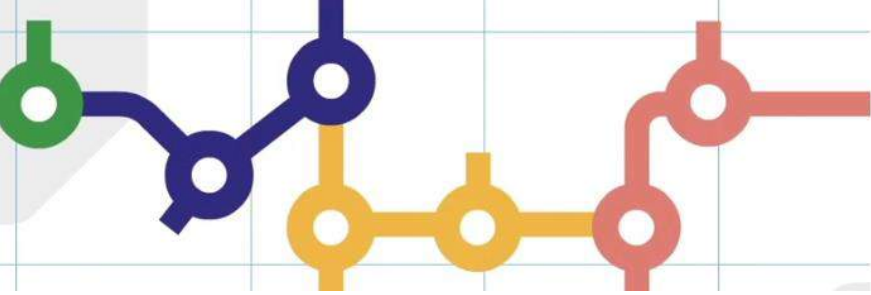
Bernadette Walker-Gibbs, Rola Ajjawi, Emma Rowe, Andrew Skourdombis, Matthew Krehl Edward Thomas, Sarah O'Shea, Sue Bennett, Brandi Fox and Peter Alsen

2019

Make tomorrow better.

[ncsehe.edu.au](https://www.ncsehe.edu.au)

- Strong relationship b/w failure & withdrawal: ~1 in 3 who failed at least 1 subject left, compared with 1 in 11 who passed everything



Connected lifelong learning (LLL): The educational continuum

Working with students, alumni, industry, professions, government, other educational providers **to distribute the educational load for LLL**

- Up- & re-skilling challenges are potentially grand enough for this to be a tipping point for **better alignment between stages & shared co-creation/ engagement**
- **Students** as partners & co-creators
- **Industry, business, professions** as partners & co-creators
- **Renewed engagement** at the discipline level
- **Parity of esteem** between VET & HE
- Embrace of **other forms of learning**
 - Informal and non-formal learning
 - Shorter form credentials, microcredentials
 - Credit, pathways and RPL enabled



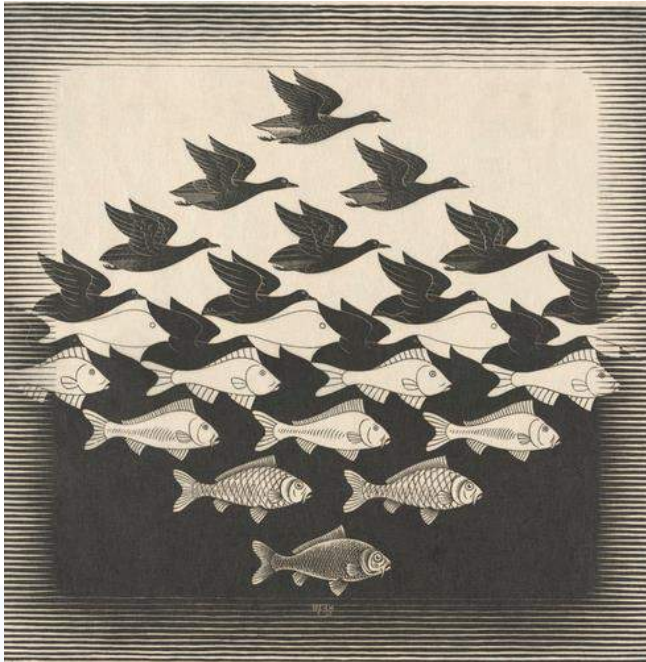
The quest for the Holy Grail of **Engagement**



Engagement: The Messy Noun

engagement 

No single meaning...



NOUN

- 1 A formal agreement to get married.
'she'd broken off her engagement to Paul'
 - 1.1 The duration of an agreement to get married.
'a good long engagement to give you time to be sure'
- 2 An arrangement to do something or go somewhere at a fixed time.
'a dinner engagement'
- 3 *[mass noun]* The action of engaging or being engaged.
'Britain's continued engagement in open trading'
- 4 A fight or battle between armed forces.
'the war's most significant engagements were fought to keep these sea lanes open'

Still a fool for the Holy Grail [of Engagement]

(with apologies to Hunters and Collectors)

Engagement matters

But it's messy – a dynamic “social-cultural ecosystem”

- **Multidimensional factors which can coalesce positively or compound negatively ...**
 - Behavioural** (e.g. time on task, participation/involvement, interactions);
 - Psychological** (e.g. investment in learning, motivation, dispositions);
 - Environmental** (e.g. personal background, economic status, social & cultural capital);
 - Cognitive** (e.g. sense-making, self-regulation, integrative learning, metacognition);
 - Emotional** (e.g. sense of belonging & wellbeing; +ve or –ve towards discipline, uni, staff).
- **Engagement is:** fluctuating for different cohorts; holistic; acad & non-academic; interactive; context dependent; personal/relational/social...
Variable as per 2018 SES (next) <https://www.qilt.edu.au/qilt-surveys/student-experience>
- Impacted on for learners by external pressures
- Both **in & outside** formal learning – co- & extra-curricula
- **Engagement:** agentic, passive, non-, or dis- [engaged]

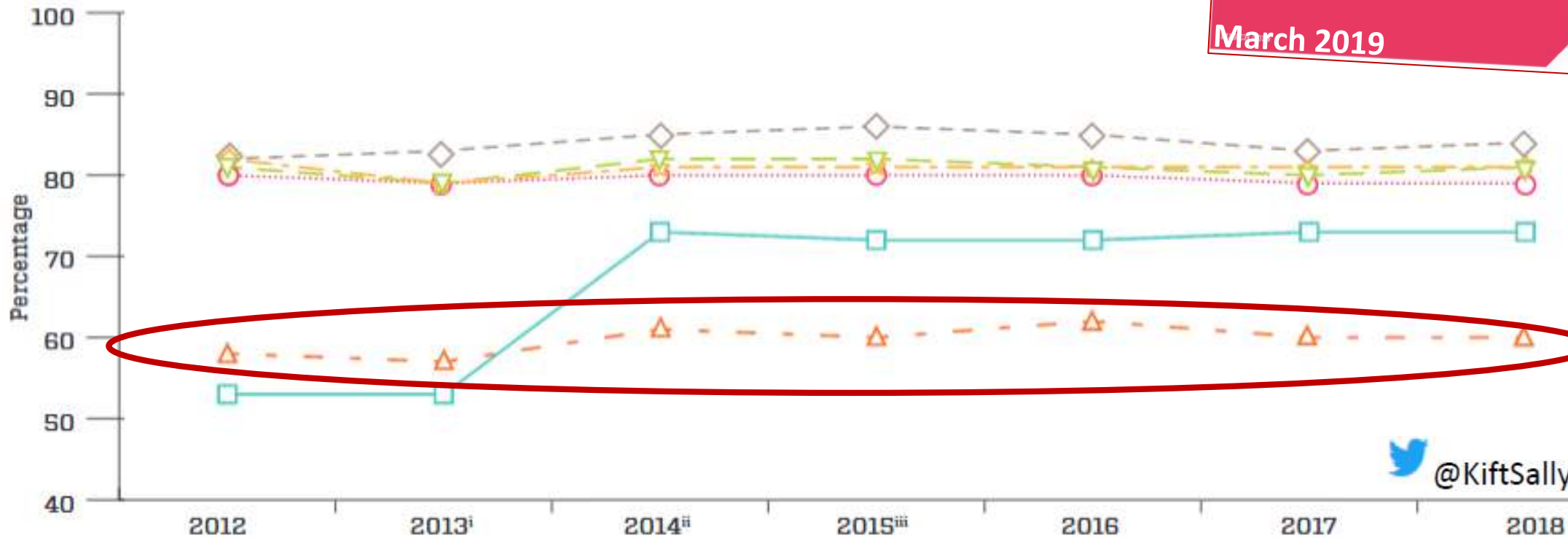


Table 1 The undergraduate student experience, by stage of studies, 2018 (% positive rating)

	Focus areas					Questionnaire item
	Skills Development	Learner Engagement	Teaching Quality	Student Support	Learning Resources	Quality of entire educational experience
Commencing	80	51 59 58*	83	76	87	82
Later year*	84	54 61 62*	78	69	80	76
Total	81	53 60 60*	81	73	84	79

*Later year includes Middle Year students where for NH&EIs a census was conducted (see Methodological Summary, 1.1.3 Survey Population – Later Year Students).

Figure 1 The undergraduate student experience 2012–2018 (% positive rating)



Learner engagement scale
(Lowest)

NB: *2017



2018 Student Experience Survey
National Report

March 2019

2018
PG Learner
Engagement

Table 7 The undergraduate student experience, by demographic and contextual group, 2018 (% positive rating)

	Group/subgroup	Skills Development	Learner Engagement	Overall Educational Experience		Group/subgroup	Skills Development	Learner Engagement	Overall Educational Experience
Gender	Male	79	61	77	First in family status*	First in family	81	59	83
	Female	83	60	81		Not first in family	80	62	82
Age	Under 25	82	63	79	Previous higher education experience**	Previous experience – current institution	79	58	81
	25 to 29	80	54	77		Previous experience – another institution	79	53	81
	30 to 39	81	45	79					
	40 and over	80	41	82					
Indigenous	Indigenous	81	55	79		New to higher education	80	62	82
	Non-Indigenous	81	60	79					
Home language	English	82	60	80	Socio-economic Status	High	81	62	80
	Other	80	57	76		Medium	82	61	80
Disability	Disability reported	78	56	78		Low	82	57	79
	No disability reported	82	60	79					
Study mode	Internal/Mixed	82	63	60	Location	Metro	81	61	80
	External	78	25	21		Regional/remote	82	58	81
Residence status	Domestic student	82	60	80	Total		81	60	79
	International student	80	58	76					

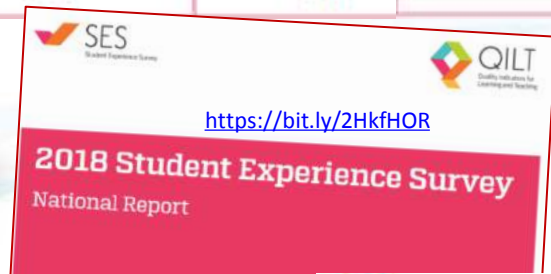
PG



Final Project Report Oct 2017

Development of an online engagement scale 2017

Large differences: Is LES a fair indicator for external students' engagement exp?



Student engagement

<https://federation.edu.au/current-students/life-on-campus/getting-involved/student-engagement>



We aim to engage students in high quality extracurricular activities with a focus on enhancing professional and social employability skills development, social engagement and sports and recreation. Participation in any of the Student Engagement programs will be counted towards the [Federation Award](#)

Student mentors

SASS recruitment



<https://federation.edu.au/current-students/learning-and-study/get-help-on-campus/mentor-program>



Whether you are coming from high school, TAFE, the workforce or another path, the change to university life can be challenging. To support you in your transition to your undergraduate program at university, you will be connected with a Mentor in the second or third year of your School.

Federation Award

FEDERATION AWARD

Get rewarded for your volunteering and leadership achievements during your time at FedUni by completing a Federation Award. The recognition of a Federation Award is a great way to demonstrate to employers that you are someone who is willing to stand out from the crowd. It will connect you to a network of other motivated students, giving you the chance to work together for change and build strong relationships along the way.

PASS program: Join a study group for your course

Staff information



PASS timetable



SASS recruitment



<https://federation.edu.au/current-students/learning-and-study/get-help-on-campus/pass-program>



Peer Assisted Study Sessions (PASS) offer a fun, informal study environment, so that you can get the most out of your course.

The many Engagement 'withs'/'sub-withs' ...

With

- Other students, including finding common ground (e.g. b/w domestic & international)
- Discipline
- Inclusive curriculum
- Assessment & feedback literacies
- Employability / Future self
- First year (& other transitions)
- Co-curricula & extra-curricula
- Sense of belonging (esp for non-traditional students who feel very 'other')
- Institution, teachers, student support services
- Culture, families, influential others & communities
- Learning environments & spaces
- Health & wellbeing
- Patterns (of engagement), e.g. PT, work
- Complicated lives/ external factors
- ...

<https://bit.ly/36WeHL0>

*Students' **total experience** of university – not just what happens in the traditional classroom – shapes their judgements of quality, promotes retention and **engages them in productive learning**.* (Scott, 2006, at vii)

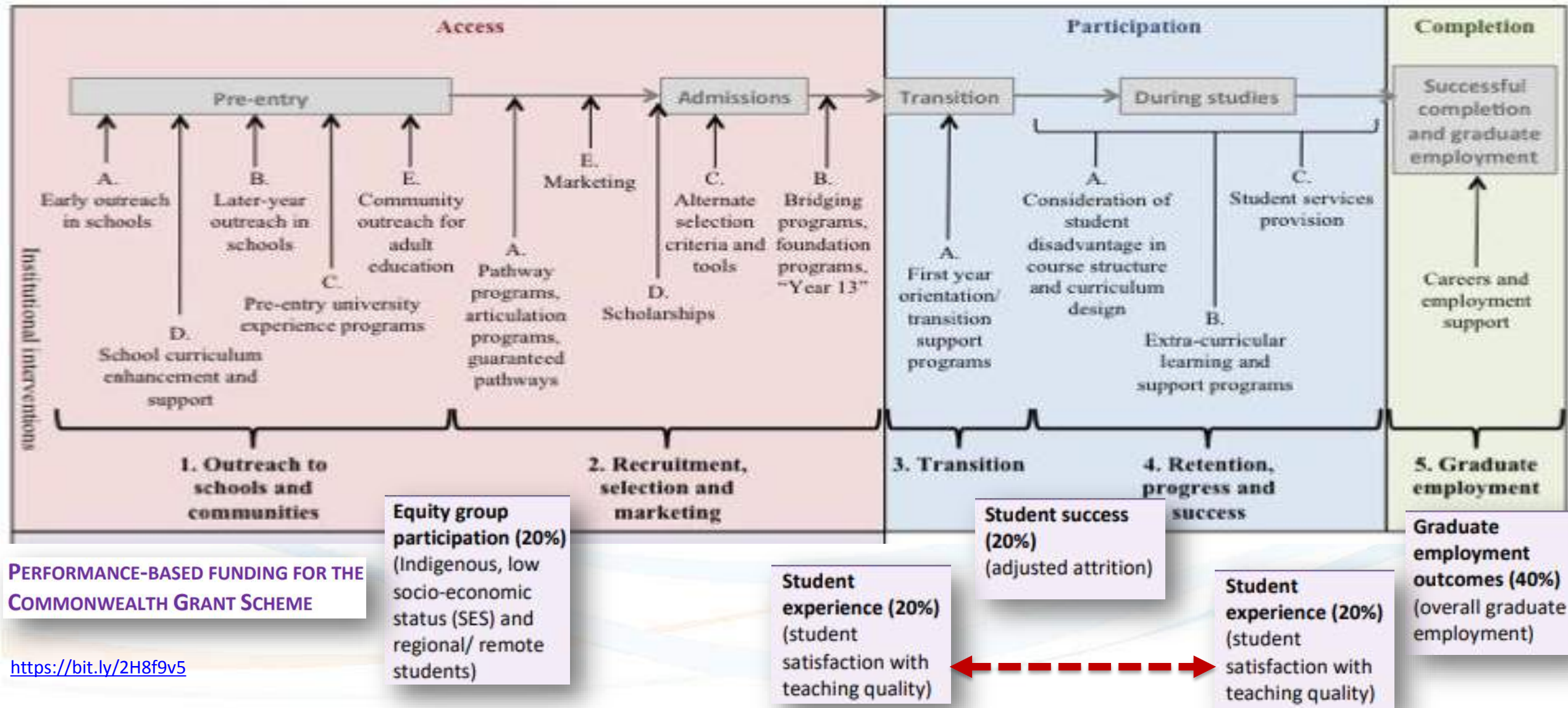
http://www.uws.edu.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0010/63955/HEIPCEQueryFinal_v2_1st_Feb_06.pdf



Mediating engagement at Transitions Points over the Student Lifecycle

MCSHE Critical Interventions Framework (2013)

<https://www.ncsehe.edu.au/publications/critical-interventions-framework/>



Facilitating & easing engagement...

Starting at Federation University

Let us guide you into your uni life.

Follow these steps and you're on your way to a great start.

Safer campuses

You have the right to be safe, respected and supported.

[Read more >](#)



Student email

My Student Centre

Student placement (InPlace)

CareerHub

Moodle

ePortfolios

Current students

Starting at Federation University

A step-by-step guide to a great start

Actioning your offer

Enrolment

Fees and charges

Find a student mentor

Finding somewhere to live

Join a study group for your course

Library resources

Minimum IT requirements for studying with us

Orientation

Prepare for study with FedReady

Scholarships, bursaries, grants

<https://federation.edu.au/starting-at-federation>

FIND YOUR COURSE OR PROGRAM

Got a career idea, passion, course or program in mind? Let us help you to get your application started.

[Course or program search >](#)

[How to apply >](#)

[Study modes >](#)

[Pathways >](#)

[Ask us >](#)

SCHOLARSHIPS AND FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

We all need a 'KickStart'. So let's see how we can help you with scholarships, bursaries and grants. We also have a range of financial help available.

[Scholarships, bursaries and grants >](#)

[Financial support >](#)

ORIENTATION

Participating in orientation activities is important for your new university adventure. Find a mentor, join a social or sports club and make new friends.

[How to get here >](#)

[Find a mentor >](#)

[Clubs and sporting groups >](#)

[Orientation activities >](#)

[Extra-curricular activities >](#)

[Booklists >](#)

AWESOME SUPPORT

We all get hurt some times or things get tough, but we have a range of services available to help you get back on your feet.

[Support and counselling >](#)

[Health centre >](#)

[Disability support >](#)

READY TO ENROL

You'll need to action your offer and enrol in your course or program. Don't worry, there's plenty of support along the way.

[Actioning your offer >](#)

Enrol in your course or program

[New student >](#)

[Continuing student >](#)

[Fee info >](#)

LET'S GET YOU SET UP

Now that you've accepted your offer and enrolled, you can start planning for your life at Federation University.

[Student ID card >](#)

[Accommodation >](#)

[Childcare >](#)

[Email account >](#)

[Get ready for uni - FedReady >](#)

[IT help >](#)

GET SKILLED UP

Unlock your potential and get the necessary skills you need to be successful at Federation University.

[Study skills and uni tips >](#)

[Library tips >](#)

[Online study help >](#)

NEED HELP? ASK US

Not sure what to do? A bit confused or got a question? That's ok, we're here to help you. We understand the process can seem a bit scary or complicated.

@KiftSally

Federation University



INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS HELP

Our International Student Office is here for you.

[Ask us about anything >](#)

[Childcare >](#)

[Email >](#)

[Get ready >](#)

[IT help >](#)

Articles

Student engagement research: thinking beyond the mainstream

Nick Zepke 

Pages 1311-1323 | Published online: 21 May 2015



Zepke (2013)

“Student engagement... can be **conceived narrowly** as a set of student and institutional behaviours in a classroom or **holistically and critically** as a social–cultural ecosystem **in which engagement is the glue** linking **classroom, personal background and the wider community as essential contributors to learning.**”

Zepke advocates for “...a **holistic view of student engagement...** [for] active student participation in classroom and curriculum management, wider community development through critical active citizenship and personal and social well-being.”



STUDENT VOICE IN UNIVERSITY DECISION MAKING

**Student engagement in university decision making and governance-
towards a more systemically inclusive student voice,**

*an OLT Strategic Priority Commissioned Project led by Professor Sally Varnham, Faculty of Law, University of
Technology Sydney.*

<https://www.uts.edu.au/partners-and-community/initiatives/student-voice-university-decision-making/olt-project-student>

**Use of Course Representatives to
enhance student learning experience**

A guide for staff partners

<https://www.uts.edu.au/partners-and-community/initiatives/student-voice-university-decision-making/starting-new/fellowship>

Student Voice: Students in Partnership.

<http://studentvoiceaustralia.com/>

STEPUP

For quality enhancement

Students and tertiary education
providers undertaking partnership
for quality enhancement

Student Voice
Australia



<http://www.sparqs.ac.uk/>

**About
sparqs**
student partnerships in quality scotland

 y scotland		
	Partners	
	Change	Value
re	Diversity	Support

Principle 7:
A national presence- for
facilitation and support

Principle 6: Valuing student
voice- recognition of formal
and informal engagement

Principle 5:
Every student's voice-
diversity and inclusivity

Principle 4:
Training and support-
as a partnership

Principle 3:
Strong student
leadership

Principle 2:
Communication- honesty
and transparency

Principle 1:
Building authentic
partnerships



Professor Sally Varnham
National Senior Teaching Fellow
July 2017

@KiftSally



student partnerships in quality Scotland

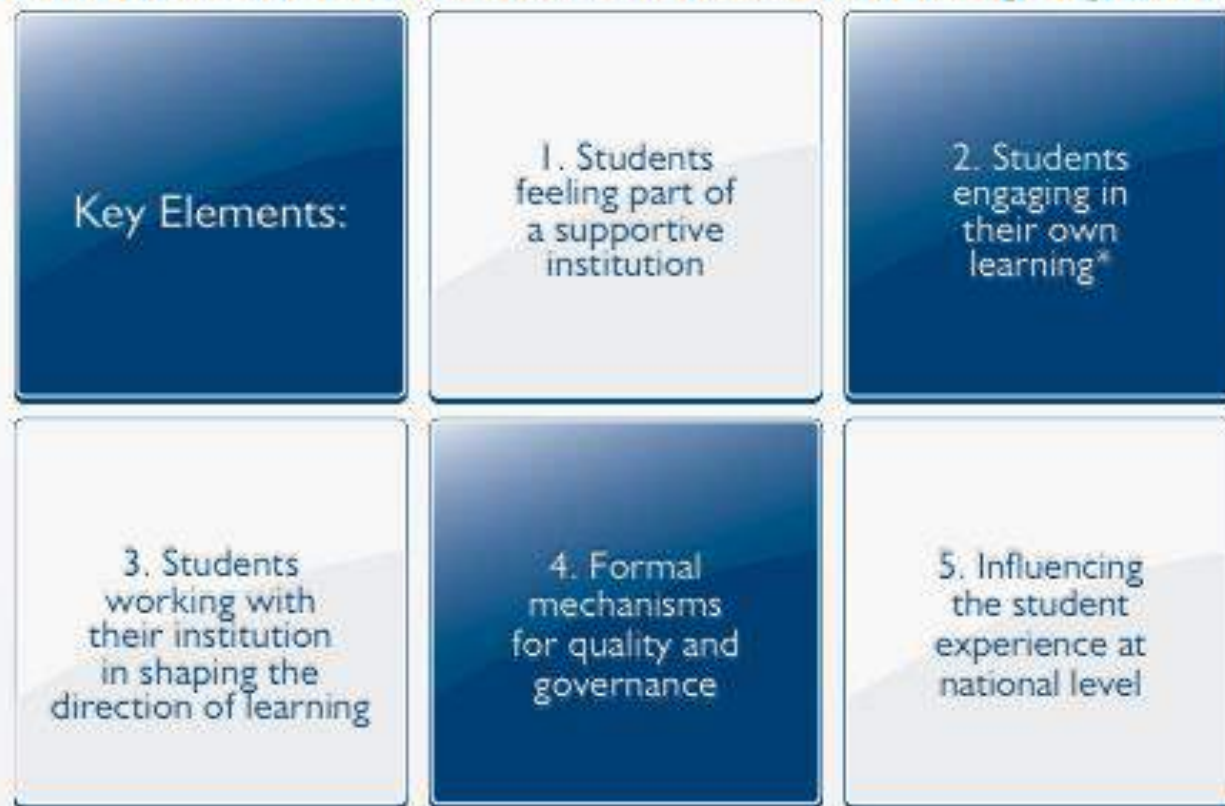
A STUDENT
ENGAGEMENT
FRAMEWORK FOR
SCOTLAND



The Six Features of Effective Engagement are:



The Five Key Elements of Student Engagement



But Wait
**THERE'S
MORE!!**

Staff engagement



Academic & professional cross-institutional partnerships

Academics and professional services in partnership summary report and self-assessment toolkit

Leading the student experience

Sarah Parkes, Julie Blackwell Young, Elizabeth Cleaver and Kenny Archibald

Academic and professional services in partnership literature review and overview of results

Leading the Student Experience

Participants discussed how partnership work within their institutions was driven by the need to:

- respond to National Student Survey scores;
- limit the effects of the new funding and fees regime including the financial penalties for student withdrawal/non-completion;
- translate and contextualise 'effective practice' within the sector;
- provide parity and consistency across academic departments .

... it's looking at the student as a whole person and generally you don't do that, you just look at these little narrow bits and then speculate on the impact of the other bits on the bit you're looking at.

(Pro-Vice Chancellor)

 **Newman University**
Birmingham

 The Higher Education Academy

 **Newman University**
Birmingham

 The Higher Education Academy

Inspiring Leadership

Leadership Foundation
for Higher Education

Sessional Staff



THE SESSIONAL STAFF STANDARDS FRAMEWORK

Sess-ion-al Staff /sessional stæf/ noun. Any teachers in higher education employed on a casual or contract or sessional basis. This includes lecturers, tutors, online course facilitators and moderators, markers and demonstrators.

Welcome to BLASST

Sess-ion-al Staff /sessional stæf/ noun.

Any teachers in higher education who are employed on a casual or contract or s and subject convenors, demonstrators, and markers.

Welcome to BLASST – a project funded by the Australian Government Office for teaching by sessional staff in higher education.

In acknowledgement of the contribution made by sessional staff in higher education, the **Staff Standards Framework** to evaluate and support the learning and teaching, affecting sessional and casual teachers in higher education.

The Sessional Staff Standards Framework sets in place criteria and standards by which we measure the quality of performance and outcomes in learning and teaching, and in management and administrative policy, procedure and practices around sessional staff.

The Sessional Staff Standards Framework positions the Institution's approach to sessional staff within the institutional policy framework, while allowing enough flexibility to include and support Individual sessional staff members; as well as Department (Unit Convenor/ Coordinator/ Subject Coordinator / Subject Leader); and Faculty (School / Division) -level responses to sessional staff issues.

These standards should be read together with existing policy and process documents, including the current Enterprise Agreement, and it should be acknowledged that while the framework focuses on sessional staff, it may have resource and workload implications for all university staff.

Principles

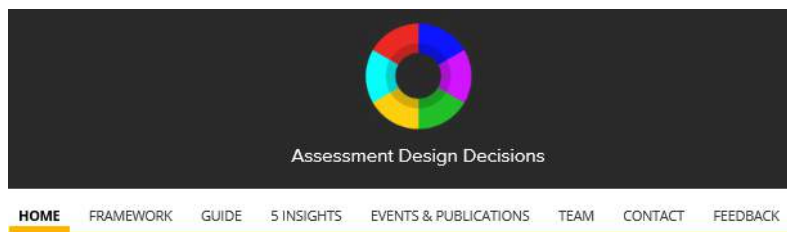
There are three guiding principles that underpin the Sessional Staff Standards Framework.

1. Quality Learning and Teaching
2. Sessional Staff Support
3. Sustainability

Criteria

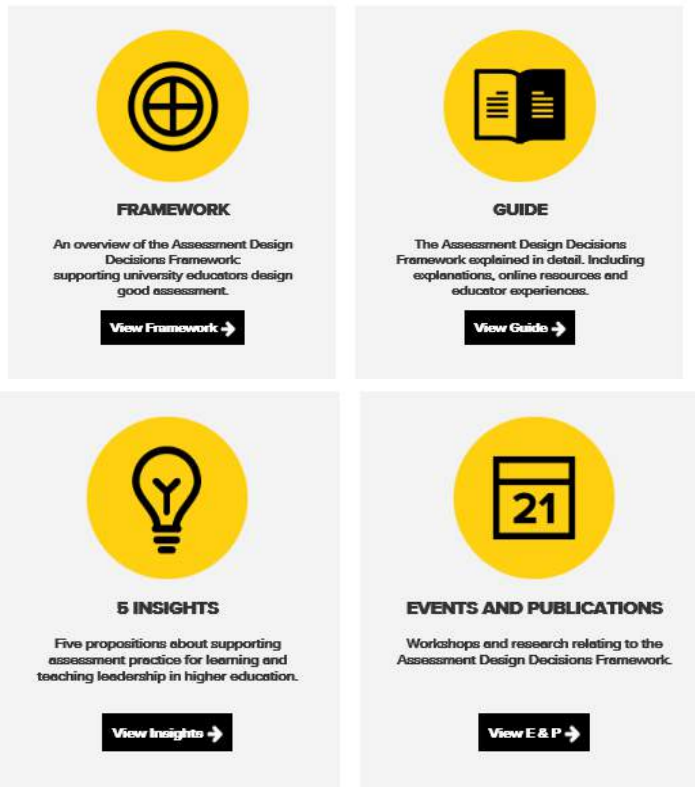
Within each principle there are three different standards of achievement in relation to the listed criteria:

- *Unsustainable* indicates that current practice fails to address the criterion
 - *Minimum Standard* indicates that there has been an active attempt to address the criteria and that a basic standard has been achieved
 - *Good Practice* indicates that the criterion is being met or exceeded
- Criteria are grouped into the three principles but are interdependent and some overlap is inevitable and intentional.



Welcome to the Assessment Design
Decisions Framework Website

This site contains resources to support university educators
in designing good assessment.



P Dawson, M Bearman, G Joughin, M Hall, S Bennett, E Molloy & D Boud –
September 2014

<http://www.assessmentdecisions.org/>

Staff Engagement for Good Assessment

INSIGHT 5.

Good assessment happens when L&T leaders in faculties/ schools/ departments are engaged

- 'Chalkface' or **local L&T leaders are very influential in assessment** (e.g. Assistant Deans of Education, Heads of Department, Program Coordinators)
- Often L&T leaders are the **main interface between policy/procedures and practice**
- Targeted support for local L&T leaders through **professional development**, resourcing and expert advice, may have a **broad impact on assessment practice**.

Action: value local L&T leadership and identify ways for these leaders to improve assessment in their faculty/department.

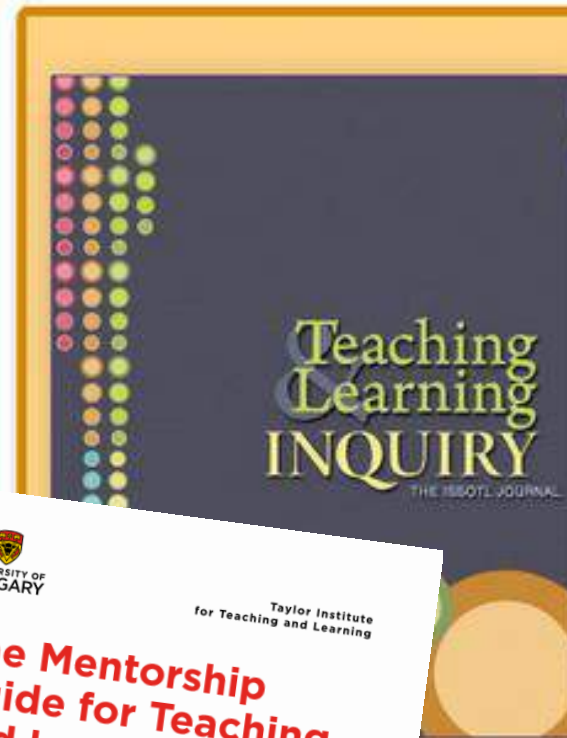
“Citizens of the Teaching Commons”

Not just
Communities of Practice
but extensive
NETWORKS for Practice,
with shared purpose &
vision – advocates,
connectors,
moral L&T conscience...



Teach&Learn INQUIRY @TLI_ISSOTL · May 8

Citizens of the Teaching Commons: The Rise of SoTL among US Professors of the Year, 1981-2015 by Mary Huber! Read it here: ow.ly/FHRZ50sllvb



“Increasingly engaged in SoTL, the US Professors of the Year reflect the emergence of a new view of the nature and source of teaching expertise and of what it means to be a “citizen” of the teaching commons.”

Huber, M. T. (2019). Citizens of the Teaching Commons: The Rise of SoTL among US Professors of the Year, 1981–2015. *Teaching & Learning Inquiry*.

Full article available now at tljournal.com

UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY
Taylor Institute
for Teaching and Learning
**The Mentorship
Guide for Teaching
and Learning**

**A learning & teaching ecosystem of
mutual encouragement, support,
even joyful engagement...**

Connectedness
+
Engagement
=
Retention



*"The more students learn, the more value they find in their learning, the more likely they are to stay and graduate ... **the purpose of higher education is not merely that students are retained, but that they are educated. In the final analysis, student learning drives student retention.**"*

(Tinto, 2002, 4)

Tinto, V. (2002, June). *Establishing Conditions for Student Success*, Paper presented at the 11th Annual Conference of the European Access Network, Monash University, Prato, Italy.

Student Retention & Success Operational Plan 2018 – 2020

https://federation.edu.au/data/assets/pdf_file/0003/440805/SRS-Operational-Plan_FINAL1.pdf



PRIORITY 1: ACCURATE & PREDICTIVE EVIDENCE TO SUPPORT DECISION MAKING AROUND SRS

Objectives	Action	Targets/Outcomes	Mapping to LTSS	Accountability	Timing
------------	--------	------------------	-----------------	----------------	--------

1.1

Use quality data to improve teaching practice and to benchmark attrition, retention and success rates.

Provide attrition, retention and success analysis and reporting

1.2

Communicate retention and success data and analysis to the Student Retention & Success Team and University community

PRIORITY 2. ENHANCE OUR PROACTIVE, STUDENT-CENTRED UNI WIDE APPROACH

Objectives	Action	Targets/Outcomes	Mapping to *	Accountability	Timing
------------	--------	------------------	--------------	----------------	--------

2.1

Enhance the enrolment process to be user friendly, simple and straightforward

2.2

Develop and implement a culture of continuous improvement through integration of the 'student centred' concept across the organisation from transition to completion.

PRIORITY 3. IMPROVE TARGETED INTERVENTION AND SUPPORT

Objectives	Action	Targets/Outcomes	Mapping to LTSS	Accountability	Timing
------------	--------	------------------	-----------------	----------------	--------

3.1

Develop and implement targeted intervention and support programs and courses in each academic /teaching unit at the Program Level and the Course Level with the highest attrition and highest fail rates.

PRIORITY 4. IMPROVE STUDENT TRANSITION SUPPORT

Objectives	Action	Targets/Outcomes	Mapping to LTSS	Accountability	Timing
4.1 <i>Embedding skills integral to transition</i> Develop and implement a cohesive and embedded transition program commencing students in their first semester of study.	1. Implement transition support program for commencing students during the first six weeks of their studies.	Central delivery of a series of workshops encompassing key university and learning skills areas from weeks one to six each semester. Targeted student cohorts will be commencing students and students identified by their school as potentially at risk of struggling with university study.	2.2	DVC (A), Director CLIPP, Director Library & Learning Spaces Director Student Connect	Piloted each semester from June 2018 – December 2019 then reviewed for further implementation.

3.3

Develop and implement targeted intervention and support for student sub-cohorts at high risk of withdrawal, among International and partner provider students.

INTERNATIONAL AND PARTNER PROVIDER STUDENTS

1. Identify patterns of dropout and completion rates for this cohort.
2. Develop targeted and specific interventions and support to improve retention and timely completion of International and Partner Provider students.

Analysis undertaken and presented.

A decline in attrition by 1% each year for three years (set in context with student intake).

Increase in International and Partner Provider student retention and completions.

2.1

2.1

2.1

PVC International,
Manager Data & Reporting,
SRS Data Analyst,

DVC (A),
PVC International,
ADTQ,
Deans of School

September 2018

December 2018

Transitions

Professions

Curriculum

How hard would it be
to connect it all up ?

Social

VocEd

Physical
Space

Alumni

Support

Schools

Skills

Global

Reviews

Industry

Connectedness 2.0: Towards a theory of HE connectedness for the best chance for all

What if our sector took responsibility for pursuing inescapable opportunities for connectedness – with
and between all staff, students, students' families and communities, curricula, learning environments,
sectors, industries and professions – with good purpose and empathy?

November 17, 2019

<https://bit.ly/35gLt9n>

By SALLY KIFT

Having recently contemplated the **veritable frenzy of education-related reviews** currently in play that have consequences for Australian higher education (HE), I now wonder if there is possibly a less transactional and more relational approach to advancing our nation's educational future. In this spirit, I offer a vision for hyper-connectivity – Connectedness 2.0 for **The Best Chance For All**. If you stay with me, my thinking here is that Connectedness 2.0 might help diffuse some perennial binaries and smooth a number of HE's hard edges.

What if we embraced connectedness unplugged, starting with HE's positioning in a connected educational ecosystem from **'high chair to higher ed'**; an ecosystem where education was connected with opportunity for all?

What if our sector took responsibility for pursuing inescapable opportunities for
and between all staff, students, **students' families** and communities,

Campus Morning Mail is an independent newsletter written and published by Stephen Matchett, formerly a long-serving journalist at The Australian newspaper. The daily e-news column receives no undisclosed funding or other assistance from any organisation or individual. Other features content on this site is managed and provided by Higher Education Consulting Group.

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Social
Inclusion &
Mobility

Data

Online

Families

Communities

Lifelong
Learning

Public
Good

ers

@KiftSally



Connectedness + Engagement = Retention

Federation University

Partner Forum 2020

Professor Sally Kift PFHEA FAAL

President, Australian Learning & Teaching Fellows

Discipline Scholar: Law

11 February 2020
Federation University,
Mt Helen Campus, Ballarat

 @KiftSally