HERDSA 2015
The 21st century student experience panel
AUS OLT National Commissioned Project
Postgraduate Student Experience

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Commissioned Project
Australian Government
Office for Learning & Teaching

... Engaging postgraduate students and supporting higher education to enhance the 21st century student experience
Thank you to
Australian Government
Office for Learning and Teaching & Team Members

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Professor Grace Lynch, Evaluator, RMIT
Professor Sally Kift, Critical Friend, James Cook University
Associate Professor Gary Hamlin, Bond University
Associate Professor Bill Eckersley, Victoria University
Professor Helen Partridge, University of Southern Queensland
Professor Ken Udas, University of Southern Queensland
Dr Sarah Richardson, Australian Council for Educational Research
Harry Rolf, Council of Australian Postgraduate Associations
Questions & Issues

1. University approach to postgraduate student diversity
2. Flexibility and innovation in postgraduate student services
3. Learning experience versus student experience
4. What matters most to postgraduate students
5. Community and sense of belonging
6. Context
   coursework versus research
   types of universities and regions
7. Career development and employability
Project Activities

• Secondary analysis of national student surveys
• Postgraduate student engagement breakfasts in all eight states and territories
• In-depth interviews with 40 postgraduate students and 40 higher education staff
• Website http://PostgraduateStudentExperience.com
• Symposium At Bond University 7-8 April 2016
Project participation to date
Breakfasts, interviews and focus groups (306 people)

C=Coursework; R=Research; U=Unknown

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<tr>
<th>State or territory</th>
<th>PG Breakfast participants</th>
<th>PG Focus group participants</th>
<th>PG Interviewees</th>
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Key findings
Emerging responses to date

Questions / Issues

1. University approach to postgraduate student diversity
2. Flexibility and innovation in postgraduate student services
3. Learning experience versus student experience
4. What matters most to postgraduate students
5. Community and sense of belonging
6. Context coursework versus research types of universities and regions
7. Career development and employability

Emerging responses

1. Industry alignment
   Personalised degrees and accreditations (coursework)
2. Satisfaction (not innovation) in pragmatic, functional administration
3. Learning experience prioritised for postgraduate students
4. Efficiency and quality learning
5. More communication and community needed (within and between)
6. Coursework PGs feel under-represented; PGs want equity across institutions
7. Employability supports needed (more and quality / context improved)
Contact us

http://postgraduatetestudentexperience.com
http://graduateemployability.com/
http://highereducationstudentevaluation.com

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