

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

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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

State or territory	PG Breakfast participants	PG Focus group participants	PG Interviewees	Staff Interviewees	Total
ACT	29 C5, R21, U3				29
NSW		7 C7	4 C2, R2	8	19
NT		15 C6, R9	6 C3, R3	4	25
QLD	69 C39, R28, U2	18 C18	1 R1	1	89
SA	28 C2, R24, U2		4 C1, R3	5	37
TAS	32 C2, R30				32
VIC	31 C18, R12, U1				31
WA	34 C17, R17		5 C5	5	44
TOTAL	223 C83, R132, U8	40 C31, R9	20 C11, R9	23	306

Key findings

Emerging responses to date

Questions / Issues

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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://postgraduatestudentexperience.com>

<http://graduateemployability.com/>

<http://highereducationstudentevaluation.com>

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