



## **Calls To National Action To Improve Postgraduate Student Experience Deriving From The National Symposium 7-8 April 2016**

**Contacts:** Associate Professors Shelley Kinash (skinash@bond.edu.au) and Linda Crane (lcrane@bond.edu.au) Bond University

1. Create regular national forums for cross-university and cross-discipline postgraduate conversations
2. Create tools and dissemination vehicles for national data collection on the postgraduate student experience (coursework and research considered separately and together)
3. Across the country, establish positions with responsibility and authority for coordination of postgraduate coursework programs at the school/faculty/university level as appropriate. This action requires support and training and must be valued and recognised through such means as protected time and recognition in workload/promotion criteria. This action is intended to establish feedback/action channels for coursework students.
4. Create and disseminate a national 'value postgraduates' campaign. As part of this campaign, advance a shared definition on a national basis, of 'postgraduate student experience.' Furthermore, establish clear and agreed indicators of postgraduate 'success.'
5. Implement supports and strategies at the university level that are customised to address postgraduate employability needs and engage a national campaign to heighten opportunities for graduates from postgraduate degrees.
6. Improve national policies and practices regarding universities as employers. Put more mechanisms into place to support PHD students in the transition from student to academic. (Advocate for improved working conditions for early career academics i.e. longer contracts, reduced workload, improved access to resources and services.)
7. Make postgraduate student experiences a priority within universities and nationally. Extend equitable and appropriate supports to postgraduate students (as to undergraduate students).
8. Create (and support postgraduate students to achieve and sustain) authentic governance positions (nationally and locally). Furthermore, engage an equity campaign so that ATSI students achieve governance positions that are not limited to ATSI portfolios.
9. Foster greater senses of community within universities and on a national basis so that postgraduate students have increased levels of social supports throughout their studies and into their graduate experiences.