Welcome to the second newsletter for the Peer Assisted Teaching Scheme (PATS) for 2012. While PATS continues to run across Monash University, we have also received funding from the Council of Australian Directors of Academic Development (CADAD) to trial the scheme across the Australian tertiary education sector. Semester 2, 2012 has seen five Australian universities engage with the scheme with 22 partnerships formed to trial PATS resources and processes.

The aims of this project are:

- A consistent and cross university strategy/policy to assist academics to improve units that need critical attention;
- Improved unit evaluations;
- List of barriers, goals and strategies for unit improvement and for wider distribution of reporting and publications;
- Leadership skills development for mentors.

Each institution has a tailored PATS Instructional Workbook, the Online Workbook, and the PATS Results Spreadsheet. The institutions participating in the project are Edith Cowan University, The University of Newcastle, Griffith University, University of the Sunshine Coast and Monash University.

Support for the production of this resource has been provided by the Council of Australian Directors of Academic Development.

The views expressed in this resource do not necessarily reflect the views of the Australian Learning and Teaching Council Ltd. or the Council of Australian Directors of Academic Development.
Project in Progress

The CADAD funded PATS project has been underway since early 2012. The following progress has been made:

The project team has completed the pre-semester and during semester tasks, which have included meeting the partners to develop strategy plans to improve unit satisfaction, as well as conducting peer observation of teaching. In addition, a series of workshops have been organised and attended by the project team members, where mentors have shared teaching methods and strategies. Team members are currently working through the PATS Instructional Workbook.

Dr Bella Ross has been employed as a project officer to work two days each week until the end of the year to ensure the smooth and timely completion of the project.

The next steps of the project include video conferencing Focus Groups with the PATS project team members. These Focus Group sessions will draw together the experiences of mentors and mentees in the trial, provide feedback on the progress and outcomes, as well as aid in the development of future PATS projects.

The project team are currently in the process of producing their paper titled “From taps on the shoulder to PATS on the Back: Experiences engaging academics with the Peer Assisted Teaching Scheme”.

What’s next...

- Focus group sessions with mentees and mentors
- Production of the paper “From taps on the shoulder to PATS on the back: Experiences engaging academics with the Peer Assisted Teaching Scheme”
- Analysis of focus group data
- Collation of task data and unit evaluation data

CONTACT

If you wish to provide feedback or comment on the PATS program, please feel free to contact:

Dr Bella Ross bella.ross@monash.edu