Peer Assisted Teaching Scheme

TEACHERS HELPING TEACHERS

http://opvclt.monash.edu.au/pats

Welcome to the first newsletter for the Peer Assisted Teaching Scheme (PATS) for 2013. The success of PATS over the last 3 years has led to the awarding of an Office for Learning and Teaching (OLT) National Senior Teaching Fellowship to run over Semester 1, 2013.

PATS originally started as a trial at Monash University in 2010 and 2011. In 2012, it was extended to four other institutions across Australia via a Council of Australian Directors of Academic Development (CADAD) funded project. The new National Fellowship will continue to extend PATS across a range of Australian universities, building on the learning gained from previous experiences.

The overarching goal of the National Fellowship is, through adapting PATS, to contribute to the development of a culture within the Australian Higher Education sector of valuing and enhancing the quality of the student learning experience.

The key questions for the Fellowship program are:

- What support is available to enhance teaching quality?
- How do faculty plans and processes meet national teaching standards?
- How can PATS be adapted to re-invigorate teaching and unit quality across a variety of contexts?

These questions will be explored through data collected via a survey of institutions, participant focus groups and selected workbook input.

In each issue we will introduce people working on the PATS project.

Chief Investigator:
Associate Professor Angela Carbone

Angela is the Associate Director of the Office of the Pro Vice-Chancellor, Learning and Teaching. With a background in Computing, Mathematics and Education, Angela held the position of Director of Educational Quality, Faculty of IT at Monash University prior to the commencement of the program.

In her career, Angela has been the recipient of numerous prestigious awards, notably an ALTC Teaching Fellowship (2010) and an ALTC Carrick Citation for FIT1002 Computer Programming, Multi-campus Unit Management Team (2010).

PATS Program Officer:
Joanne Rae

Joanne has over 15 years' experience in project coordination and communication roles in government and non-government sectors in the UK and Australia. She has worked across the horticulture, arts, education and healthcare sectors. Most recently she coordinated a healthcare reform evaluation project for the University of Melbourne and the North & West Metropolitan Region of the Department of Health.

PATS Research Officer:
Dan Tout

For the past three years Dan has worked as a research assistant at Victoria University in the School of Language & Learning, where he was involved in a number of projects evaluating the university's various student peer learning programs. He also recently completed his Honours thesis at Swinburne University of Technology, which examined the structural influences of settler colonialism on the development of Australian nationalism.

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Program Reference Group

Emeritus Professor Alan Robson - University of Western Australia
Alan is a former Vice-Chancellor of the University of WA and the Chair of the HE Standards Panel.

Professor Roger Hadgraft—RMIT
Roger is Innovation Professor in Engineering Education and an ALTC Discipline Scholar.

Sally Rogan—The University of Wollongong
Sally is the Director of Peer Support and Student Learning and the Australian National Trainer for PASS.

Professor Sally Kift—James Cook University
Sally is the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic) and an ALTC Senior Fellow.

A/Professor Mark Freeman—The University of Sydney
Mark is Director Accreditation in the Business School and an Australian Business Deans' Council Scholar.

Professor Jane Long—La Trobe University
Jane has just taken up the position of Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic) at Le Trobe and is also a TEQSA accredited national auditor.

Paul Denny—The University of Auckland
Paul is a lecturer in Computer Science and the creator of the PeerWise learning tool.

A/Professor Arnold Pears—The University of Uppsala
Arnold is a Director of the Swedish National Centre for Student and Societally-relevant Education (CETUSS) and an Associate Professor of Tertiary Computing Education Research.

Program Progress

The OLT funded phase of the PATS program has been underway since October 2012. Key achievements to date:

Reference Group Appointed

A Reference Group of leading academics, chaired by the Fellow, has been established and will meet for the first time in early December 2012. It includes representatives from DVCs (Academic), the Higher Education Standards Panel, and the PASS program.

Recruitment of Participating Institutions

To date, ten Australian universities, plus six faculties at Monash, have expressed interest in taking part in the program. These include: Edith Cowan University, Griffith University, the University of Newcastle, University of the Sunshine Coast, Australian Catholic University, James Cook University, University of Tasmania, University of Queensland, University of South Australia and RMIT.

Invitations will be issued to prospective participants before the end of the year so that partnerships can be established in time for the start of the 2013 academic year. If you are interested in getting involved in PATS, at an institution or participant level, please contact the Program Officer, details below.

External Evaluator Appointed

Associate Professor Ian Solomonides from Macquarie University has agreed to act as external evaluator for the program to assess the impact it has had on the sector and on the individuals involved.

What's next...

- **Examining the Teaching Standards Framework for opportunities to link with PATS**
- **Survey of institutions to find out what sort of support is currently available to teachers**
- **Developing a generic PATS workbook**
- **Finalising recruitment of PATS coordinator and PATS participants**

CONTACT

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