

Peer Assisted Teaching Scheme



**TEACHERS
HELPING
TEACHERS**

monash.edu/pats

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Welcome to the fifth, and final, newsletter for the OLT funded National Senior Teaching Fellowship (NSTF): *Developing excellence in learning and teaching through a Peer Assisted Teaching Scheme (PATS)*.

Peers come together to celebrate OLT Fellowship success

Around 90 participants from 27 institutions across Australia braved a wet December day to celebrate and reflect on peer mentoring at the OLT National Senior Teaching Fellowship Symposium held on 4 December 2013 at Monash University, Caulfield campus. The day was a great success with 80% of delegates rating the program and calibre of speakers as very good or excellent.

The symposium highlighted the different flavours of the PATS as implemented by a range of universities including Griffith University, University of Newcastle and Kaplan Higher Education. This included the University of Tasmania initiative to develop: q-PATS (quality improvement of units); s-PATS (engaging with scholarship), and e-PATS (peer support online).

The day was opened by Professor Adam Shoemaker, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Education), at Monash who highlighted the connections between indigenous peer support 'round the campfire' and the PATS program where colleagues meet regularly over coffee to discuss opportunities and methods to challenge their teaching.

The symposium included a Q&A panel session, facilitated by the fellowship's external evaluator A/Prof Ian Solomonides from Macquarie University, in which PATS participants spoke about their experiences.

"By hearing about all the different experiences [of PATS] - I realised how big an impact can be made by codifying some relatively simple ideas into a well packaged program" Symposium attendee

Selected elements of presentations and posters from the day are now available on the PATS website: www.monash.edu/pats

Recognition for PATS participants

Congratulations are in order for some of our high performing colleagues...

Dr Bonnie McBain from the University of Newcastle received two awards last year:

- Online Teacher of the Year Award - Newcastle Postgraduate Students' Association
- Sessional Academic of the Year Award - Faculty of Science and Information Technology

Dr McBain, in conjunction with her PATS partner, **Dr Liam Phelan** was also awarded an OLT Innovation and Development Grant for *Learning and Teaching Academic Standards (LTAS) Project for Environment and Environmental Sustainability*.

Dr Daryl D'Souza and **Astrid Bauers**, a PATS pair from RMIT University, have had a paper, entitled *An experience with PATS - a Peer Assisted Teaching Scheme*, accepted for the International Conference on Learning and Teaching in Computing and Engineering (LaTiCE) to be held next month in Malaysia.

Dr Laurence Orlando (pictured below with her PATS partner **Peter Wagstaff**) from the Faculty of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences at Monash University introduced PATS to help her develop the use of Wikis in collaborative student assessments. The resulting output was a student-led produced textbook.



The Formulator's Guide to Tableting
Monash PSC3201 students



Australian Government



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PATS Events

4 December 2013

PATS Symposium
Monash University, Melbourne

Upcoming events

13-16 April 2014

LaTICE
Kuching, Sarawak, Malaysia

30 May 2014

Quality Teaching: Building Bridges conference
Holmesglen, Melbourne

10-11 June 2014

OLT Higher Education & Teaching Conference
Dockside Pavilion, Sydney

12 June

OLT Fellows Forum, Sydney

16-18 June 2014

International Consortium for Educational
Development (ICED) conference
Stockholm, Sweden

Program Progress

Although the Fellowship-supported elements of PATS have come to an end, the scheme is still being adopted across Monash university and other higher education institutions in Australia and New Zealand.

2012-13 summary

In total, 13 separate institutions have introduced the scheme since July 2012. This has involved 156 participating academics teaching 105 units/courses. At Monash alone this has impacted on the learning outcomes and experiences of over 2500 students. Participating institutions include:

Griffith University	University of Newcastle
Edith Cowan University	Think: Education group
University of South Australia	Charles Sturt University
RMIT University	University of Tasmania
Macquarie University (City)	Monash University
University of Wollongong	Kaplan Higher Education
University of the Sunshine Coast	

Looking ahead to 2014

Monash University is now looking to operationalise PATS with six of their ten faculties implementing PATS in 2014. The scheme will be run 'in-house' by a nominated PATS Coordinator and supported by colleagues in the Office of the Pro Vice-Chancellor (Learning & Teaching).

The University of Tasmania is leading an exploration of further PATS 'flavours' with several other Australian higher education partners. There is also interest from other Australian universities, plus Auckland University of Technology in New Zealand, who are looking to embed the scheme within their faculties.

A/Prof Angela Carbone is available to come and speak to faculties or central units about the benefits of the scheme and how best to go about implementing it. If your institution is interested in implementing PATS in 2014, please contact Dr Bella Ross, bella.ross@monash.edu.

Impact of PATS

PATS on video

There are a range of videos available on our website exploring:

- Embedding PATS—Associate Deans (Education) and PATS Coordinators talk about the opportunities and challenges for embedding PATS at institutional and faculty level
- Building Collaborative Relationships—PATS partners share their stories
- PATS in Action—Individuals discuss their experiences and share insights into the benefits gained from participating in PATS

PATS on paper

Carbone, A. (2013). *Opportunities and Challenges Faced in Attempting to Improve Units with Critically Low Student Satisfaction*, Higher Education Research and Development (HERD) 33.3.

Carbone, A., Phelan, L., Drew, S., Ross, B., Cottman, C., Stoney, S., Lindsay, K. and Readman, K. (2014, in press). *Course Evaluation Matters: Improving Students' Learning Experiences with a Peer Assisted Teaching Program*. Assessment and Evaluation in Higher Education

D'Souza, D., Bauers, A., Carbone, A. and Ross, B. (2014). An experience with PATS - a Peer Assisted Teaching Scheme. International Conference on Learning and Teaching in Computing and Engineering (LaTICE), 11-13 April 2014, Sarawak, Malaysia.

Final report

- **The OLT Fellowship final report will be available in July 2014. If you are interested in receiving a copy of the report please contact Bella Ross.**

Thank you

We would like to thank the Fellowship Program Officer, Joanne Rae, for all her hard work on the program. Joanne will shortly be moving on to another role within Monash but retains an active interest in PATS. Thank you Jo!

Contact

If you wish to provide feedback or comment on the NSTF program, please contact:

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