Preparing Academic Teachers in Higher Education
Progress on a National Collaboration Project

Showcase Session
HERDSA Conference
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Project Aims

To devise a framework for preparation for university teaching programs that will benefit the sector by:

• Promoting a set of shared expectations and understandings about the nature of university learning and teaching

• Locating these programs in a wider context
Project Leaders and Manager

Leaders
- Professor Margaret Hicks, University of South Australia (Lead Institution)
- Associate Professor Heather Smigiel, Flinders University
- Associate Professor Gail Wilson, Bond University

Manager
- Ann Luzeckyj, Flinders University
Brief Overview of Project

- Project arose from Foundations Colloquium in Launceston in 2005
- Six people tasked with putting a proposal together for a Carrick (ALTC) grant
- Grant approved March 2007 as a Discipline-based initiative
- Model of national collaboration using distributed leadership approach
- Funding $300,000 over three years
- 4 stages to the project
Project Stages

- Stage 1 – Data gathering featuring literature review and survey of current Foundations programs across sector
- Stage 2 – Research phase featuring establishment of sub-project groups to investigate benchmarking, models, evaluation approaches, resources and professional development of staff working in Foundations programs
- Stage 3 – Resource generation relevant to each sub-project group
- Stage 4 – Dissemination of project findings

This presentation focuses on Phases 3 and 4
Sub-project Groups and Leaders

- Benchmarking
- Models
- Impact
- Resources
- Professional Development

- Dr. Marina Harvey, Macquarie University
- Dr. Natalie Brown, University of Tasmania
- Dr. Leone Hinton, Central Queensland University
- Alison Bunker, Edith Cowan University
- Professor Yoni Ryan, Australian Catholic University
Stage 3 – Resource Generation

- **Benchmarking** – developing and piloting of statements of good practice and generating case study resources of benchmarking processes
- **Models** - producing case studies to represent various models
- **Impact** – developing tools, strategies and approaches, and case studies consistent with illustrating evaluation framework
- **Resources** – developing key resources used in Foundations teaching across the sector and providing repository for accessing these resources
- **Professional Development** – developing a module for professional development of staff
Evaluation Processes

- Comments from CADAD meeting and Foundations Colloquium will be incorporated into the final report.
- The project continues to seek feedback through relevant groups - Foundations community, CADAD and HERDSA.
- External evaluator has been appointed to examine processes and outputs of the project.
Project Achievements To Date

• All sub-projects moved into Phase 3 and 4 on time
• Project website has become operational
• External evaluator identified and evaluation plan in place
• Agreement obtained from Council of Australian Directors of Academic Development (CADAD) and Foundations community to use the final 2009 CADAD meeting and annual Foundations Colloquium as opportunity to disseminate final results of project
What Tasks Lie Ahead?

- Evaluation processes and final report
- Reports from sub-project groups finalised
- Drafting of final report by project leaders and manager
- Dissemination of findings at Foundations Colloquium November 2009
- Submission of final project report to ALTC December 2009
What Have We Learned from Working on This Project?

- Communication
- Importance of face-to-face contact
- Supporting individual sub-projects over time and distance
- Impact of organisational change in sector
- Difficulties in communication and resource sharing as project progresses