

## SUMMARY OF ACHIEVEMENTS

### Work Placement for International Student Programs (WISP)<sup>1</sup> Project

The Work Placement for International Student Programs (WISP) project was led by Dr Georgina Barton and Dr Kay Hartwig from Griffith University and involved academic team members from Curtin University (WA), Deakin University (VIC), Monash University (VIC), Queensland University of Technology, and University of Southern Queensland between 2014 and 2016. The project was funded through the Innovation and Development grant scheme of the Office for Learning and Teaching.

The project aimed to improve work placements for international students in a range of programs including: Business, Education, Engineering, Nursing, Occupational Therapy, Psychology and Speech Pathology. It also aimed to improve processes and resources for relevant university staff (such as placement officers, academics and support staff) and work place staff (including mentors, supervisors and facilitators). Full details about the project can be found in the final report on the website: <http://wisp-project.weebly.com/> Also featured on the website are a range of learning and teaching resources for all stakeholders, information regarding the research approach, and a list of all activities and publications related to the project.

A major outcome of the WISP project was a model of effective practice based on a number of conceptual frameworks from the literature. These include: internationalisation and interculturalisation, multi-socialisation, and reflection and reflective practice. The model provides a structure for international students, university and work place staff to work towards success, employability and work readiness before, during and after the work placement.

In addition, as a result of an extensive data collection (artefacts, focus groups, interviews and large scale survey) and analysis process, recommendations for success for each stakeholder (international students, university staff and work place staff) were developed. These were created from a strengths-based approach to highlight the richness and skills that international students can offer through an intercultural exchange between themselves and staff within work place contexts.

A book titled *Professional learning in the work place for international students: Exploring theory and practice*, published with Springer publishers, is an exceptional outcome from the WISP project. The book has been separated into three sections. The first has explored conceptualisations around the topic of work placements for international students including globalisation, communities of practice for ESL/EAL students, reflection and reflective practice, and personal and professional socialisation. The second section presents empirical data from the WISP project across a range of discipline areas. The final section explores the ways in which higher education may consider systemic change to improve work placements for international students.



<sup>1</sup> The WISP project was originally submitted to the OLT as *Improving work placement for international students, their mentors and other stakeholders*. Work placement refers to any experience within a work place context such as work integrated learning, work experience, practicum, internship etc.