Thurgoona Campus Visit 2011

Building partnerships between CSU and industry for workplace learning

- Importance of two-way personal relationships. CSU – host organisation.
- Importance of meaningful support/professional development for workplace educators.

Panellists: Jonathon Howard, Liisa Uusimaki, Narelle Patton, Michael Curtin, Jerry Sweeting.

The following is a brief overview of the workshop and the presentations from the panellists:

Jonathan Howard – Environmental Science
- Advantages and disadvantages of workplace learning, placement outside and formal subject structure.
- Flexibility of compulsory placements, timed at students’ convenience but before final year.
- Placements centered around students developing career pathways.
- Jonathon circulated a paper Professional Practice for Environmental Management: Some Reflections over Twelve Years.

Liisa Uusimaki – Teacher Education
- Managing multiple student roles
- Importance of personal relationships in forging partnerships with field
- Mentoring workshops
- Liaison workshops
- Cakes (Caring About Key Educators).

Narelle Patton – Community Health
- Physiotherapy placements with accreditation requirement.
- Exemplar of multi-level partnership with large health organisation – Barwon Health.
- Outcomes include funded professional development program (7 modules) following successful HWA grant application (Barwon CSU), also research projects by Barwon SCU staff, conference present actions.

Michael Curtin – Community Health
- Occupational Therapy placements within accreditation requirements (diversity and flexibility features) but CSU organises the documents.
- Emphasis on personal relationships and communication with host organisation, largely through emails, visits and phone calls.
- Emphasis on preparing students to communicate professionally with clinical supervisors (structured letters and evaluation/thank you letters).

Jerry Sweeting – Student Services
- Exemplars of placements, partnerships at different universities (CDU, La Trobe and UK examples).
- Emphasis on distance programs.
- Traditionally workplace learning placements are most highly valued by students and undervalued by universities.
- Importance of meaningful support for workplace educators – two way relationship.
- Hub and spoke model of placements for regional and rural placements.
- Multi-university and inter-professional partnerships to establish placement opportunities (eg nursing at Katherine, social work at Alice Springs in partnership with Flinders, Médecins Sans Frontières, partnering with CDU in Mt Kilimanjaro and other countries).