Learning and Teaching Investment Fund final report

Supporting VET pathway students into GSSS&P postgraduate coursework programs

Kate Driscoll
Global Urban and Social Studies, Design and Social Context

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Strategic objectives addressed:

• facilitating relevant pathways for students through our program offerings,
• providing support for students from diverse backgrounds,
• Promoting work integrated learning and industry partnerships in education.

Internal order number: 360344
Project leader contact details:
Email: kate.driscoll@rmit.edu.au
Phone: 99258287

Project team members:

• David McElgunn
• Anthony Graham
• Lesa Beel
• Susie Costello
• Lisa Thompson
• Kate Driscoll
1 Executive summary

This project has seen the development a new educational model for senior community services sector professionals. Central to the model has been the design and development of a new Vocational Graduate Diploma of Community Sector Management program to be offered by the School of Global, Urban and Social Studies (formerly GS&S&P) in 2013.

The qualification is designed for people who are employed to undertake a range of management functions requiring a high level application of knowledge and skills. This qualification is considered to be ideal for Executive Directors, Service Directors, General Managers and Managers of large programs and those aspiring to these roles.

The Vocational Graduate Diploma in Community Sector Management provides an applied and practical post graduate study option, developing high level leadership and management capabilities required within the context of multidisciplinary service delivery. The program was developed in close partnership with industry and addresses contemporary and future training requirements of employees in senior management roles.

The Vocational Graduate Diploma in Community Sector Management provides a pathway into the GUSS Master of Public Policy program (formerly the Master of Social Science(Policy and Human Services) Program).

In order to support students in the transition from the Vocational Graduate Diploma level to Masters level study, a GUSS Guide to Critical Thinking has been developed. The Guide provides students with examples and resources to develop their critical thinking capacity and will be distributed across the School.

2 Outcomes

Two key outcomes have resulted from this program.

2.1 Vocational Graduate Diploma in Community Sector Management

- The program design, development and documentation has been completed and approved for delivery in 2013.

2.2 GUSS Guide to Critical Thinking

- The Guide will be available for VET students transitioning into GUSS postgraduate programs.
3 Project outcomes and impacts

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Anticipated outcomes</th>
<th>Actual outcomes</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Design and develop Vocational Graduate Diploma in Community Sector Management</td>
<td>Design and develop Vocational Graduate Diploma in Community Sector Management complete</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prepare program approvals for Vocational Graduate Diploma in Community Sector Management qualification</td>
<td>Program approvals for Vocational Graduate Diploma in Community Sector Management qualification complete and approved</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Industry consultation and market Vocational Graduate Diploma in Community Sector Management</td>
<td>Industry consultation and market Vocational Graduate Diploma in Community Sector Management completed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Develop curriculum &amp; run student seminars</td>
<td>This aspect could not be completed due to the former VET students (3) enrolled in Master of Public Policy taking Leave of Absence. Consultation with the students identified the key issue in transition from VET to postgraduate study was critical thinking capacity. This led to the development of the GUSS Guide to Critical Thinking</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Critical thinking resources scan – review of Australian university critical thinking resources</td>
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The development of the Vocational Graduate Diploma in Community Sector Management has strengthened the relationship between VET staff and staff teaching into postgraduate programs in GUSS, particularly Master of Public Policy staff.

4 Dissemination strategies and outputs

The Vocational Graduate Diploma in Community Sector Management will be marketed across the community services sector. The GUSS Guide to Critical Thinking will be available on the GUSS School website and made available to RMIT’s Study and Learning Centre.

5 Evaluation of project outcomes

The development of the Vocational Graduate Diploma in Community Sector Management has met with wide support from industry and key employer groups in this sector. This support will translate into targeted organisational utilisation of the Vocational Graduate Diploma for staff and organisational development. (see Appendix A - Letter of support)
The direct impact of the usefulness of the GUSS Guide to Critical Thinking for VET students transitioning into postgraduate study will not become clear until a cohort of students make use of this resource.

6 Budget report

- $12,000 was approved for this project
- $12,000 acquitted for this project

See Financial statement – Appendix A
Appendix A

Please find attached the following:

1. Financial statement
2. GUSS Guide to Critical Thinking & Critical Thinking Resources
3. RMIT Program Guide Vocational Graduate Diploma in Community Sector Management