

Academic Development

## Academic Development Research Update

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## PROJECT 1 BACKGROUND

In Australia:

- no systematic PD offered to Academic Developers
- no organisation of ADs
- Associations
- HERDSA & SIG, ASCILITE, ODLAA, TELedvisors, SEDA, CADAD/CAULLT

Conferences

 HERDSA, ASCILITE, Learning Leaders in Higher Education, NZ Academic Development Symposium, ICED

Fellowships, Recognition & Awards

• HERDSA, HEA, Australian Awards for University Teaching, SEDA



## **BUILDING ON RESEARCH**

Very high degree of interest (95%) amongst ADs for a "nationally run formal professional learning program" [Hill, CADAD 2016].





# P1: QUESTION: WHAT PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT DO ACADEMIC DEVELOPERS WANT, AND WHAT WILL LEADERS SUPPORT?

Leader Survey (n = 12) Academic Developer Survey (n = 48)





## **ADs - Areas of Interest for PD**

Association for Australasian ADs Awards for Australasian ADs Formal award-bearing programs Formal non-award programs Research involvement Conferences Networking and sharing AD workshops Leadership development Training technologies Formal frameworks Mentoring





#### Comparison of ADs and leaders – interest in/support for potential future PD





#### **Leaders - Funding Initiatives**



## ADVANCING ACADEMIC DEVELOPMENT EVENT



- Keynote: Highly experienced expert
- Keynote: Recognised exemplary
  practice
- Presentations of Good Practice by Peers (PechaKuchas)
- Reflections on good practices
- Workshops to build capability (2018 Scholarship; 2019 Evaluation)
- Workshop to reflect together and advance AD (understanding, definition etc)
- Networking









#### IDENTIFYING AND RECOGNISING LEADERS AND INNOVATORS IN ACADEMIC DEVELOPMENT



SHARING GOOD PRACTICE ACROSS THE DIMENSIONS OF TEACHING, LEARNING, AND SCHOLARSHIP.

27 nominations, 20 universities



#### Advancing Academic Development

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Academic Development focuses on good practice and enhancing practice for all the dimensions of teaching, learning and scholarship. Academic development aims to develop teaching, curriculum, and leadership of teaching so as to, in turn, support high quality student learning. Higher education staff who support academic development may be referred to as academic, educational, or professional developers. [Mårtensson, K., 2014]





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#### Good Practice Presentations Finalists and Award Winner Videos

The Australasian Academic Development Good Practice Awards recognise leaders and innovators in academic development across the dimensions of teaching, learning, and scholarship. Ten finalists were selected from a highly competitive field, with PechaKucha presentations showcasing innovation and impact, inspiring others across the sector, and raising the profile of the role academic development plays in the success of academics and students.

Presented at Advancing Academic Development, Bond University, Nov. 2018.

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Jindaola

University of Wollon Presentation by Jade Kenner Panel Award and Peer

Jindaola is a unique er embedding Indigen curricula Knowle

## **PROJECT 1 FINDINGS**





Advancing

Engaging university executive in data collection is challenging (response rate of 6.25% to first call to DVC-As)

National recognition of good practice is valued (27 nominations, 20 universities) Finalists in AAD awards clearly identified impact of recognition on themselves and their institution

## ACADEMIC DEVELOPMENT: OUR WORKING (mixed) DEFINITION



Academic development has a focus on good practice and on enhancing practice for all the dimensions of teaching, learning and scholarship. Academic development aims to develop teaching, curriculum, and leadership of teaching so as to, in turn, support high quality student learning.

Higher education staff who support academic development may be referred to as academic, educational or professional developers.

Inspired by Mårtensson, K. (2014). Influencing teaching and learning microcultures, Lund University. Mukerji, S. & Tripathi, P. (Eds.) (2017). Handbook of research on administration, policy, and leadership in higher education. Hershey <u>https://www.seda.ac.uk/about</u> text **Contested in Meeting** 

## Confusion in some nominations









**Research Questions** 

How do Academic Developers Define Academic Development? (Value, values, principles and practice)

Based on what was identified in P1 as being needed, what forms of Professional Development do Academic Developers find beneficial?

In particular, what are the effects of presenting good practice to peers?

What themes principles of AD good practice recur in the Good Practice Presentations?



## **PROJECT 2**

Methods

Visual methods to elicit explicit and implicit definitions



Advancing



### **Professional Development Event**

Two key strategies:

- Advancing Academic Development (AAD) Event
- Good Practice Awards



## PROJECT OBJECTIVES (WHAT WE SAID WE WOULD DO)

1.Ascertain support for ongoing networking/organisation and canvas the Academic Development community, and University Leaders of Learning and Teaching via CAULLT for a potential structure that could be supported in an ongoing fashion; and

2.Facilitate a networking meeting of Australian ADs, with embedded components of professional development as an experimental test case.

## AUSTRALASIAN

ACADEMIC DEVELOPMENT GOOD PRACTICE AWARDS

## https://vimeo.com/313323885

### AAD EVENT EVALUATION

100%

# 80%

- a positive opportunity to develop academic network,
- learnt about good practices at other universities

- proud of the work as academic developer
- reflect on challenges and opportunities for academic developers

"Your initiation has brought a significant event to the field/discipline 50 years into its history. It is a joy to know that there is something to strive for in terms of national recognition.



