The Places and Spaces of Graduate Outcomes in Tertiary Institutions in Aotearoa/New Zealand

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What is the place of graduate outcomes in student learning? How does engagement with graduate outcomes vary across different spaces of student learning? In this session I will discuss a recently completed Ako Aotearoa national project on Graduate Outcomes (GOs). The project aimed to: identify current policy and practice regarding GOs in New Zealand universities and polytechnics; document and analyse examples of good practice; and determine the necessary conditions and possible strategies for the effective development of policies and practices regarding GOs. The project used a mixed methodology approach. First, we took a stocktake of institutional engagement with GOs across the tertiary sector by surveying leaders of teaching and learning units in universities and polytechnics. Ten leaders were also interviewed to gain more in-depth data. Second, we sought cases of good practice and selected eight programmes who were engaged with GOs across four institutions (AUT, Otago and Victoria Universities and the Christchurch Polytechnic Institute of Technology). The cases included vocational degrees such as Broadcasting, Physiotherapy and Oral Health, as well as more general degrees such as Applied Science, Design, Marketing, Music and Tourism. For each case we both surveyed and interviewed (or ran focus groups) with staff and students. Third, we conducted a meta-analysis across all the cases and stocktake data to draw out the main themes regarding enablers and barriers to engagement with GOs. In this session, as well as providing background to the research, key findings will be presented.