

Professionalisation of the Academic Workforce

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While there has been substantial research undertaken on what constitutes excellent teaching in higher education there remains a lack of a commonly understood framework describing quality university teaching. Given the significant changes in the Australian higher education environment which includes an increasingly diverse student and staff population, a new regulatory and accreditation framework and the growing imperative to demonstrate quality in teaching in the international marketplace, it is timely to address this omission. This presentation will report on an OLT project which has been designed to synthesise the research and current practice in universities as a foundation for the development of a quality framework integrating principles and evidence of good practice that can be implemented at the institutional, faculty and individual staff level across Australian universities. The framework will also align with promotional levels for academic staff. This initiative addresses the place of teaching in the academic profession at a time of significant change in the sector.