GATHERING THE EVIDENCE: THE USE, ADOPTION AND DEVELOPMENT OF OPEN EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES IN AUSTRALIA

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OER FOUNDATION DEFINITION

"Open Educational Resources (OERs) are educational materials which are licensed in ways that provide permission for individuals and institutions to reuse, adapt and modify the materials for their own use. OERs can, and do include full courses, textbooks, streaming videos, exams, software and any other materials or techniques supporting learning."

Source: (WikiEducator, 2011)

The Research Project

Funded by the Australian Learning and Teaching Council (ALTC) Competitive Grant - $220,000

The **purpose** of this project is to develop a "Feasibility Protocol" to enable and facilitate the adoption, use and management of Open Educational Resources (OERs) for learning and teaching within higher education (HE) institutions in Australia.

Why this project is important?

- Contribute to the development of a sector wide framework for OERs in Australia.

- Meet expectations and demand of learners and educators.

- Promote social inclusion, lifelong learning and connect non-formal, informal and formal learning.

- To develop better understanding and awareness of OERs.

- To join and collaborate with a worldwide movement.

Project Aims

The major aims of this project are:

- to undertake a literature review to identify key themes in the field of open educational resources

- to undertake a survey and conduct in depth interviews to uncover the state of play of open educational resources in Australia

- to make recommendations to inform and assist the adoption, use and management of OERs within higher education in Australia.

Research Design

Investigation Stage

(1 – 12 months)

- Ethical clearance
- Data collection (Mixed-methods)
- Preliminary data analysis (Nvivo)

Development, evaluation and dissemination Stage
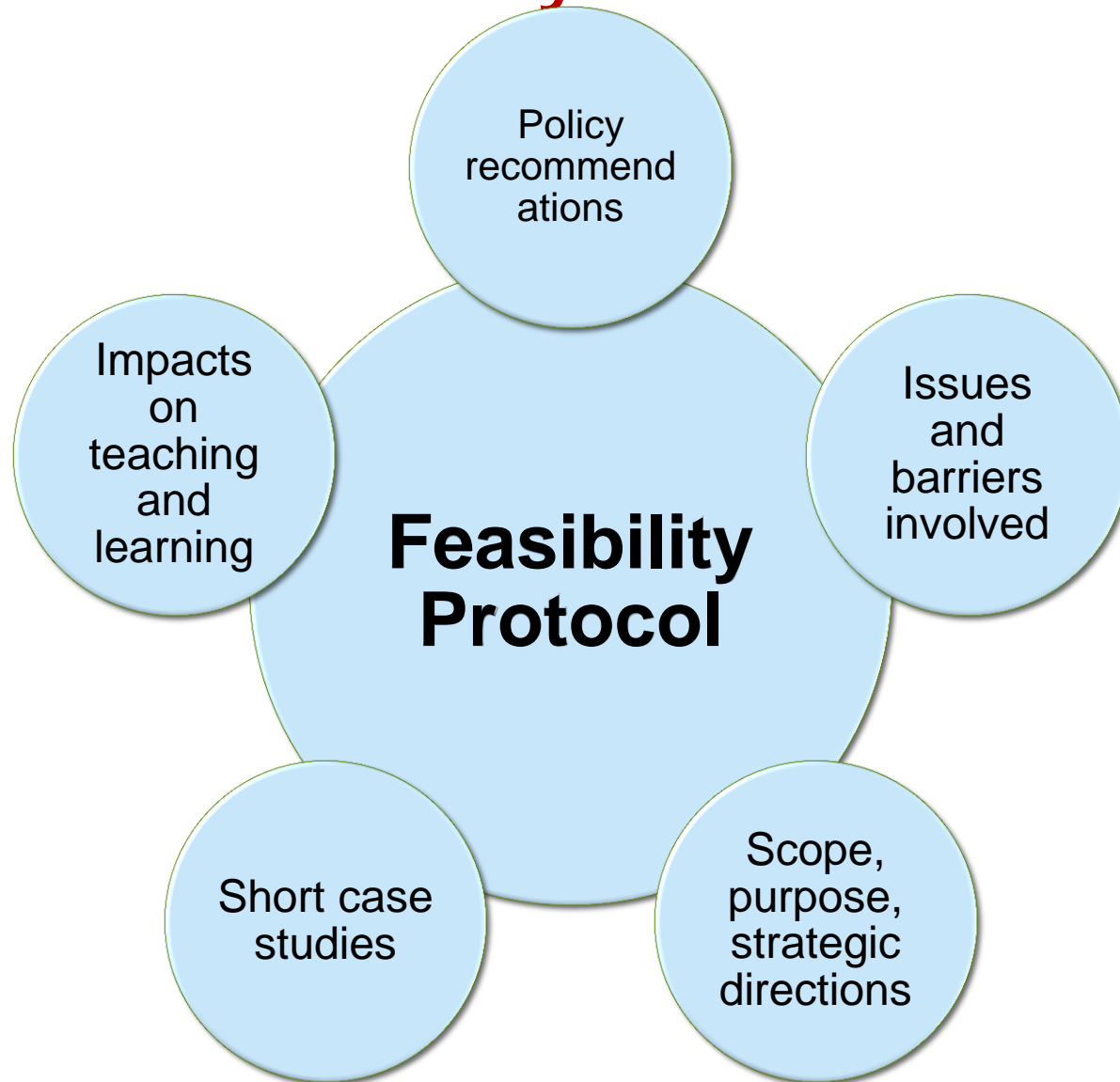
(13 - 24 months)

- Draft of Feasibility Protocol
- Organise the symposium (Additional data gathering)
- Final version of the Feasibility Protocol, final reports and evaluation

Outcomes

The outcomes of the project are:

- to expand understanding of the OER trend and impacts for Australia;

- to enhance institutional understanding of the issues, barriers, opportunities and successes of OERs internationally.

- to inform institutional and government policies and practices for OERs within HE in Australia; and

- to develop a Feasibility Protocol.

How to get involved

- Contribute to this project on:

- Wiki Researcher = http://wikiresearcher.org

- Or simply contact me at: David.Bull@usq.edu.au