

ANZSSA Conference Workshop Proposal

Developing a social justice framework to ensure good practice in higher education

Karen Nelson, Tracy Creagh

The concept of student engagement is a key factor in student achievement and retention and Australasian universities have a range of initiatives aimed at monitoring and intervening with students who are at risk of disengaging. Given the aspirations about widening participation, it is absolutely critical that these initiatives are designed to enable success for all students, particularly those for whom social and cultural disadvantage have been a barrier. Consequently, these types of initiatives must be consistent with the concept of social justice and a set of principles would provide this philosophical foundation for the sector. An Australian Learning and Teaching Council (ALTC) project¹ that involves ten Australasian universities, is designing of a suite of resources for the sector which will include: (1) a set of principles for good practice in MSLE,¹ (2) a good practice guide for the design and implementation of institutional MSLE policy and practice, and (3) a collection of resources for and exemplars of good practice to be taken up by the sector. This workshop session will provide an opportunity for participants to examine the draft set of principles and to discuss their potential value for the participants' institutional contexts.

¹ Australian Learning and Teaching Council Competitive Grant CG10-1730 2011-2012: *Good practice for safeguarding student learning engagement in higher education institutions.*

¹ Monitoring student learning engagement