Network of Australasian Tertiary Associations

A space for discussion, collaboration and advocacy in Tertiary education

By Mike Keppell, Gordon Suddaby* & Natasha Hard

*Presenter

Contents

- What is NATA? An overview of development
- Network objectives and strategic focus
- Dissemination of the OLT/ALTC Good Practice Reports
- Research: Improving understandings of network leadership
- Partner projects: collaboration and the development of resources with sectoral value
- Sustainability and the future

What is NATA?

- The Network of Australasian Tertiary Associations (NATA) is 2 year OLT/ALTC funded project

- Working to improve engagement and practice through network leadership

- Network partners include ACODE, ascilite, CADAD, HERDSA, ODLAA, AARNet, Netspot and the OLT.

NATA Structure

Operational Team: Mike Keppell (Project Lead), Gordon Suddaby (Project Lead), Natasha Hard (Project Manager & Research Assistant)

Host Institution: University of Southern Queensland

Network of Australasian Tertiary Associations (NATA)

Lead Associations: ACODE, ascilite

Collaborative Partners: CADAD, HERDSA, ODLAA

Enabling Partners: AARNet, Netspot, OLT

Reference Group: Geoffrey Crisp, Grainne Conole

Partner Representatives (one per partner association)

Project Evaluator: Tom Prebble

An overview of development
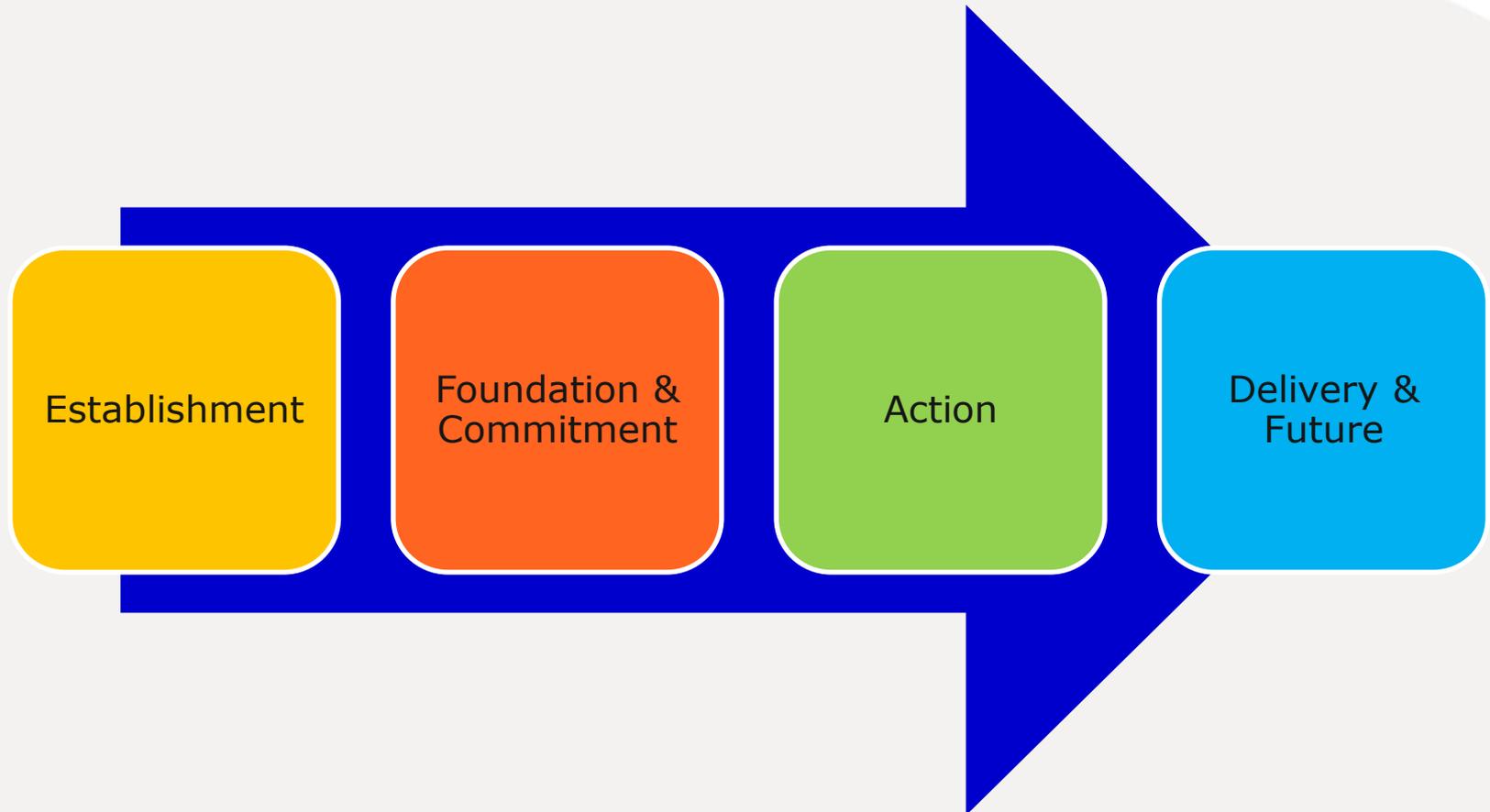
Key Challenges

- Building a shared understanding of purpose and direction

- Establishing effective and appropriate communication practices

- Working across three countries; Australia, New Zealand and Mexico

Dissemination of the OLT/ALTC Good Practice Reports

- 11 Good Practice Reports were commissioned by the ALTC

- Reports provide a synthesis of funded projects on a given topic area

- Topics vary from learning and teaching across cultures to technology-enhanced learning and teaching

- Reports provide background literature, explanation of key concepts, project examples, principles and recommendations

Disseminating the Good Practice Reports

- A NATA project key objective
- Apparent lack of awareness of the reports within the sector
- How best to increase awareness?
- Development of 3-5min asynchronous video resources to promote the GPRs

Research: Improving understandings of network leadership

Research Questions:

1. What network **leadership strategies** support good practice in leading networks to foster engagement of members in established Australasian Tertiary Education Associations?

2. What **communication strategies**, technologies, and approaches support good practice to foster engagement of members in established Australasian Tertiary Education Associations?

3. What **common ground** exists between organisations that could provide a basis for collaboration into the future?

Partner projects: collaboration & the development of resources with sectoral value

- Small scale projects
- Support collaboration between members
- Develop resources/materials which are aligned with the NATA key objectives as well as the objectives of partner associations
- Strengthen network

Partner project example: ascilite

- **Title:** Guide to support and advance network engagement for members of professional associations and networks in the digital age

- **Background:** ascilite is currently reviewing its digital interface, and the use of this interface to engage with members. ascilite will document and share the major lessons resulting from this initiative with the network.

- **Deliverables:** A 'Guide' will provide a better understanding of the design principles and strategies for utilising digital technologies to support best practice in professional association and network engagement.

Partner project example: HERDSA

- **Title:** Leading Academic Networks
- **Background:** Networks all face the challenge of turnover. They are reliant on the goodwill of members to sustain a viable, active community promoting their mission. Leadership is challenged by the nature of volunteer networks: they are dispersed, often virtual and meet sporadically.
- **Deliverables:** A practical guide for both networks and their leaders as to how to step into leadership roles with confidence. The guide will explore strategic, relational, governance, and engagement issues. It will be a useful evaluative tool for any network, and will assist in benchmarking networking practices. Of particular value will be consideration of the use of social media as communication tools.

Partner project example: ACODE

- **Title:** "Engaging Network Members: A NATA case study of a Contemporary Tertiary Sector issue"

- **Background:** ACODE identified a need to investigate and scope a sector-wide approach to media management because of the growing use of digital video in Teaching and Learning, and other purposes, in our institutions.

- **Deliverables:** Using media management, develop a case study about the process of engaging member institutions and network member associations to address a contemporary issue and develop a guide identifying key elements for engaging network members and factors required to investigate an issue.

Sustainability and the future

- Commonality of purpose
- Advocacy
- Future shape or future form
- Project event & evaluation
- Research findings
- Where to from here?

Questions?

- For more information about the NATA please visit the project blog/website at: www.nataonthenet.blogspot.com