

HDR Researcher Profile

Name: Phillip Chambers

School of Education

Program: EdD



Thesis title: Understanding vocational teachers' perceptions of quality teaching

Thesis Description (key theories and methodologies):

Using a constructivist framework and the theoretical underpinnings of Experiential (Adult) Learning this mixed methods research will explore the underreported field of Australian vocational teachers' perceptions about 'quality teaching' in the Vocational Education and Training industry. It is acknowledged that 'quality' is a concept that must be understood in context and it is the very contested nature of quality that is central to this research. It is hoped this research will contribute to the growing knowledge around the interrelationship between vocational teacher professional development and quality education outcomes. Research methods will include a broad survey, based on Smith's 2017 ARC funded research project. The survey tool will be contextualised for this inquiry and followed up with focus group and in-depth individual interviews.

Bio (short):

My unique career pathway has allowed me to synergise the fields of Business Improvement, Theatre for Communication and Vocational (Adult) Education.

I have worked in adult education for the over 30 plus years of my adult life. Initially in 'theatre-for-education' with community groups throughout the ASEAN region I transferred those dramatically inspired educational skills into the field of 'Government Job Clubs' with unemployed people in inner Sydney. After completing my undergraduate studies with the University of Western Sydney – Bachelor of Adult Education with the School of Social Sciences and Education (Honours) with the School of Education – I joined the UWS Research Centre for Learning and Applied Social Transformation (RCLAST) as a lecturer in Adult Education (Emergency Services) and fulfilled a contract with UWS to develop leadership programs for an industry partner, the NSW Fire Brigades (now NSW Fire and Rescue).

Following this I worked as a lecturer with the Lean Six Sigma and Business Excellence Institute providing corporate business improvement workshops for the University of Technology Sydney. Simultaneously, I created and managed a NSW Registered Training Organisation (RTO)

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to facilitate indigenous training and employment opportunities with an indigenous community and mining partnership in Western Sydney.

After completing the Vocational Graduate Diploma of Management (Learning) I became the course coordinator and lead lecturer of the Graduate Diploma of Management (Learning) for North Coast TAFE. I also developed articulation pathways for this program between NC TAFE and Charles Sturt University.

I am currently employed by TAFE NSW in a regional role supporting pedagogical excellence of teachers in the Business and Technology faculty.

Publications list/current profile (link to ORCID)

Name: Old Dogs New Tricks
Status: Accepted/Presented
Where: IERA Conference
Date: Christchurch, New Zealand, 2002
Author(s): Chambers, P and Lewin, C (50/50)

Name: Educator Jones and the Search for 'creds'
Status: Accepted/Presented
Where: EMA Conference (Canberra)
Date: September 2003
Author(s): Chambers, P

Name: In-credible Education: searching for credibility in a uniformed workplace
Status: Accepted/Presented
Where: ALA Conference (Sydney)
Date: November 2003
Author(s): Chambers, P

Name: Going to Uni in my Uniform.
Status: Accepted/Presented
Where: International Workbased Learning Conference: Copenhagen, Denmark
When: November, 24-27, 2004
Author(s): Chambers, P

Name: Are We Putting the Cart Before the Horse?: Using e-teaching tools in industry based learning.
Status: Accepted/Presented
Where: ALA, Sydney
When: 2005
Author(s): Chambers, P and Lewin, C (50/50)

Principal Supervisor: Dr Jenny Johnson

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