Fellow Profile

Associate Professor Carmela Briguglio
Curtin University

Carmela Briguglio has a long record in language and literacy education in WA. She was Manager of the Communication Skills Centre in the Curtin Business School until 2017, and is currently a Curtin Associate.

Fellowship title: Embedding English language development into the disciplines

Year completed: 2013

Expertise key words: language and literacy education, internationalisation of curriculum, English as a global language

What did you achieve?: During the fellowship I developed strategies and materials for staff involved in tertiary education in a variety of faculties, to embed English language development across the disciplines. I worked with staff across Curtin University and in a number of other universities by invitation, to develop and deliver staff development activities which raised staff awareness of the issue involved and provided them with a variety of strategies they could implement in their own specific teaching context. In particular, I developed a staff development module that could be adapted and used by academics in their own particular discipline. I promoted an interdisciplinary approach, particularly between discipline specialists and language staff, to create a ‘third space’ in which both groups of staff could create new activities and understandings. These mixed teams proved to be very creative in developing new approaches and strategies for student learning and for embedding English language development within disciplines.

Since the fellowship I have disseminated findings and materials developed during the fellowship at seminars, conferences and other academic gatherings and in academic publications. I have also delivered professional development on the topic of embedding English language development across the curriculum in a number of universities, by invitation. I continue to research and present in this area. Some of the academic teams created during the fellowship continue to meet and have written academic papers about their experiences in this project.

What does the sector need now?: Continued staff development is needed. English language instruction at the tertiary level is now a global issue carrying an increasing responsibility for those universities providing such instruction.

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