Fellow Profile

Professor Lynne Cohen
Edith Cowan University

Professor Lynne Cohen is a community psychologist, applied social psychologist and Fellow of the Australian Psychological Society (APS). Lynne was awarded the Order of Australia in 2016 for her services to Higher Education.

Fellowship title: Building leadership capacity in undergraduate students.

Year completed: 2012

Expertise key words: Resilience, leadership, learning

What did you achieve?: I focused on researching on developing leadership skills in undergraduate students. I developed and trialed a leadership program that was specifically designed to enhance the competencies and skills of undergraduate students beyond their discipline knowledge. The program initially refined a model which was trialled, modified and adopted by other universities which resulted in enhanced leadership capacity of teaching and professional staff in the universities. Students engaged better with their areas of study which led to better retention and completion rates. I have continually organised the program within different schools and faculties. However it requires commitment from staff to implement.

- The potential to enhance employability of graduates.
- Greater community engagement through the use of industry partners as mentors.

What does the sector need now?: It would be useful to develop a leadership academy designed for undergraduate students. This would be a whole of university initiative.