Fellow Profile

Associate Professor Marina Harvey  
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Director, Academic Development Services at UNSW. Marina’s research, using Participatory Action research, is in quality learning and teaching with sessional staff, distributed leadership and reflection for learning evidenced in over 80 publications.

Fellowship title: Quality learning and teaching with sessional staff: systematising national standards
Year completed: 2016
Expertise key words: Reflection, Sessional staff, Distributed leadership

What did you achieve?: Part One
The fellowship enabled Australian universities to engage with the evidence-based National standards for quality learning and teaching for sessional staff through benchmarking activities (blasst.edu.au). Benchmarking workshops in the UK and Spain demonstrated that the standards are transferable globally.

The BLASST online tool is designed to stimulate reflection and action, and to enable institutions, faculties, departments and individuals to work towards consistency in good practice with regard to Sessional Staff. The colour-coded report which is generated provides a foundation for reflective decision-making, and can be used to inform action plans for enhancing practices and priorities.

A national summit recognised and rewarded good practice of quality learning and teaching with sessional staff across the Australasian sector.

Part Two
Following the fellowship, dissemination focusing on good practice, case studies and research continues. This includes a special issue of the International Journal of Academic Development, a HERDSA guide and book chapters as well as ongoing benchmarking workshops.

What does the sector need now?: Comprehensive and accurate data collection; Increased support for professional/career development; Further engagement by university executives (eg DVCAs) and by private providers