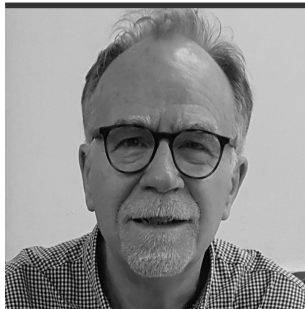


Fellow Profile



Professor Stephen Billett Griffith University

Dr Stephen Billett is a Fulbright scholar, national teaching fellow, recipient of an honorary doctorate from Jyväskylä University in Finland and elected Fellow of the Academy of Social Sciences of Australia.

Fellowship title: Curriculum and pedagogic bases for effectively integrating practice-based experiences within higher education

Year completed: 2011

Expertise key words: Learning through and for work, vocational education, professional development

What did you achieve?: Providing students with experiences in practice settings to assist developing their knowledge required for effective professional practice is growing and widening trend across Australian higher education. These experiences aim to assist students to move smoothly and effectively into their selected occupational practice upon graduation. As such they are welcomed by government, industry, and students alike who all want applicable outcomes from higher education. Yet, achieving these outcomes requires informed educational purposes and processes, supported by appropriate curriculum and pedagogic principles and practices that can guide and assist those teaching in higher education to provide students with effective practice-based learning experiences and their integration into the overall curriculum.

Five key contributions were made through this Fellowship. Firstly, it is necessary to include the personal processes of experiencing and reconciliation what is experienced by learners in each of the settings, and, secondly, consider how students engage with the experiences and pedagogic practices is central to the richness of learning. Thirdly, merely providing practice-based experiences for students is insufficient unless those experiences are enriched through preparation, engagement and opportunities to share and reconcile what has been contributed by these experiences. Fourthly, the findings highlight the importance of enacting pedagogic practices that can most likely to develop engaged and critical practitioners. Fifthly, the need to engage, prepare and extend students as active and agentic learners is central to the effective integration of experiences across practice and higher education settings, their ability to engage in professional practice and their becoming effective critical and reflexive practitioners.

What does the sector need now?: The sector needs to identify ways in which students' experiences in workplaces can be effectively planned for, enacted and then integrated to assist students develop the capacities required for work



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