



THE CARRICK INSTITUTE  
FOR LEARNING AND TEACHING  
IN HIGHER EDUCATION LTD



## **Leadership and Assessment: Strengthening the Nexus Summary Report April 2007**

### **1. Action Research Enablers**

#### **1.1 LEAP Forum**

With a shorter working month (due to the Easter break) the forum will be held at the beginning of May (Wednesday, 2<sup>nd</sup>).

#### **1.2 Reflection Sessions**

Reflection sessions continued to be conducted with the Action Research Enablers.

Chiro – Monday, 16<sup>th</sup> April.

Law – Monday, 30<sup>th</sup> April

Computing – Wednesday, 18<sup>th</sup> April

#### **1.3 ICVF tool**

Development of a tool to support reflection on the roles associated with being a leader of assessment was undertaken. This tool has been adapted from the ICVF (Integrated competing values framework) theoretical framework developed by Vilkinas and Cartan (2006). This reflection tool was then trialed during the month's reflection sessions. Responses were varied – on a positive note the model focused attention on the diverse components of the leadership role, to a number of roles that may have not before been considered. AREs were mixed in their responses to compartmentalising their roles into the model's quadrants. The additional activity of listing what they saw as their roles as a leader in LAP proved to be very informative, constructive and an effective initiator for reflective discourse. This activity will be repeated in future reflection sessions.

Vilkinas, T. (2002). The PhD process: the supervisor as manager. *Education + Training*, 44, (3), 129-137.

Vilkinas, T. and Cartan, G. (2006). The integrated competing values framework: its spatial configuration. *Journal of Management Development*, 25, (6), 505-521.

#### **1.4 Ethics**

Acknowledgement for the ethics application on behalf of the AREs was received last month. Conditional approval was received (13/04/07) and a response drafted that addressed each of the conditions. This response was then lodged on Monday, 30<sup>th</sup> April.

#### **1.5 Department of Health and Chiropractic Curriculum Integration Workshop**

Robyn is involved in a related project in her department on curriculum integration and a half-day workshop was conducted on Wednesday, 18<sup>th</sup> April to which Marina was invited.

### **2. Assessment profile**

#### **2.1 Step 2**

Development of a tool to support Step 2 of the Assessment Profile continued. Feedback from the LEAP forum of March was incorporated into the next draft of the tool and this was uploaded to the WebCT site.

#### **2.2 Unobtrusive data**

The AREs can access additional and unobtrusive data that can be useful in informing their progress of the project in their departments. Examples of potentially useful and unobtrusive, secondary data include the LEUs, CEQ, MUSERQ and accreditation data. Marina submitted a request to the university's Information Management Unit (S.K. Ho) to obtain the CEQ data for each participating department and this has been speedily obtained, shared during the month's reflection session and then electronically distributed together with an explanation of the subscales.

#### **2.3 Compilation of an assessment task resource**

To support the AREs in their leadership of assessment profiling in their departments it was considered useful to have a resource that summarises assessment types. This compilation has begun. The next draft will incorporate suggestions from the LEAP forum.

### **3. Evaluation**

Need to consider how to capture project impact as we learn that two of the steering committee members (Judy Lattas and Marnie Hughes-Warrington) intend to start smaller assessment focused projects in their departments. In effect, this may be Stage 2 commencing earlier than initially planned.

#### **4. Project Dissemination**

##### **4.1 Submission for eRAM**

An earlier draft outlining the LAP was rewritten and submitted last month for consideration in the publication eRAM (Educational Research at Macquarie).

##### **4.2 REAP online conference**

Our submitted case study will be incorporated in the REAP digital archive. To enable this, keywords, etc were requested and submitted (Monday, 30<sup>th</sup> April).

##### **4.3 Meeting with Cathy Rytmeister to discuss models of leadership (Monday, 16<sup>th</sup> April).**

##### **4.4 Steering Committee**

Agenda emailed to committee members in preparation for the 23<sup>rd</sup> May meeting. Confirmation made that Jan Orrell and Sharon Parry will present.

##### **4.5 Community of Practice**

Resources and links continue to be uploaded to the WebCT site, for example, the LEAP forum suggested investigating the rubrics developed by the University of Newcastle and a link to these resources has been included. Changes to the committee include Marnie Hughes-Warrington being replaced by Marcelle Freiman (Division of Humanities) and the retirement of Bruce Kercher necessitating another replacement.

#### **Project outcomes**

AREs continue to work within Phase 1 – 1.3 of *action and observation* as they prepare for Step 2 of the assessment profile. With the completion of the assessment matrix for each department, there is a wait for ethics approval (to conditions) which will allow AREs to undertake shared reflection with colleagues (Phase 1, 1.4).