

Supplementary Submission 82.1

TE Inquiry

How ECU ensures the quality (link between theory and practice) of the professional practice supervision undertaken by sessional supervisors

Within the School of Education at Edith Cowan University professional practice supervision is undertaken by three categories of staff members:

- 1) Academic staff employed in either a permanent or fixed term contract capacity to undertake both teaching/research and professional practice supervision.
- 2) Sessional academics who are employed as both sessional lecturers and professional practice supervisors (University colleagues). In some instances, these sessional staff members are also a member of staff in one of the partnership schools.
- 3) Sessional staff employed only for the purpose of professional practice supervision.

As far as possible the School endeavours to fulfil all professional practice supervision requirements using staff from groups 1 and 2 above. Using staff directly involved with the teaching of the University courses as well as professional practice supervision, ensures that the staff member has a good knowledge of the course and the units taught through first hand experience.

All sessional staff including those not teaching in our units are connected to the 'on campus' components of the program through the following means:-

- Full briefings with the Partnership Manager when they commence (background to partnerships, the operational and philosophical changes etc.).
- Consistent ongoing communication with the Partnership Manager through meetings, phone and email.
- Invitation to all program team meetings. They receive the full minutes of all meetings. Practicum issues are discussed at every team meeting as practicum is seen as a team responsibility – not separate from academic and teaching responsibilities.
- Invitations to all School University Reference Group meetings (4 x year) where we collaborate with school and district office staff on partnership issues
- Invitation to the school /student practicum briefings.
- Invitation to attend the 4th year (after hours) tutorials run to support our students while they are on their Assistant Teacher Experiences (ATE).

Sessional staff employed only for the purpose of professional practice supervision receive documentation on our course materials and structure, semester by semester. They also receive booklets for each of the practice periods which outlines where students are up to in the course, and which units are currently being studied.

Most importantly, sessional supervisors are involved in at least 3 Professional development sessions per year (start, mid-ATP (July) and end of year). Two of these sessions also include academic staff. The beginning sessions are an induction and course structure is part of this work.