



# Going places

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The Going Places project was recently launched by Team Leader, Associate Professor Debra Miles of JCU and Julie King of QUT, at the Australian Council of Heads of School of Social Work meeting in Brisbane. The project has moved into data collection phase. Over the next few months we will be focusing on gathering survey responses, qualitative interviewing and planning workshops to test our findings.

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## Our focus

International social work requires graduates who are prepared to work across cultures in a range of contexts. Student exchange is one important avenue for educators to expose social work students to international issues through a lived experience. However, we lack information about the number and nature of international student exchanges across Australian Schools of Social Work. With a commitment to core social work values of equity, sustainability and reciprocity, Going Places aims to document, analyse, develop and disseminate exemplary practices in international social work student exchange.

## Survey and qualitative interviews

All Australian Schools of Social Work have been invited to participate in an online survey. Data collected from the survey will provide an overview of the current state of practice in relation to international social work student exchange in Australia. Responses to date already indicate significant variety in the way that exchange is offered and the range of challenges faced across social work programs in Australia.

Information gathered through the survey will be used to determine participants for follow-up qualitative interviews. These will be used to gain a more in-depth understanding of the range of experiences and practices that occur in international exchange. Interviewing will take place in Australia and internationally to ensure the views of both sending and host institutions are reflected in the project findings.

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*Support for this project has been provided by the Australian Government Office for Learning and Teaching. The views in this project do not necessarily reflect the views of the Australian Government Office for Learning and Teaching.*

## Workshops

We have submitted a proposal to facilitate a workshop at the Joint World Conference on Social Work, Education and Social Development 2016 in Seoul. It is hoped this workshop will provide an opportunity to share experiences, critique assumptions and reflect on emerging data and themes. In addition, a series of collaborative workshops will be held over 2016 in Australia and internationally to test research analysis. Visit our website <http://www.goingplaces.edu.au> and sign up for project updates so we can let you know when and where project workshops will be held.

## Project team

Going Places is funded by the Australian Government Office of Learning and Teaching. It is a collaborative research partnership involving staff from James Cook University, Queensland University of Technology, De Paul Institute of Science and Technology (DiST) in India and Nakhon Ratchasima Rajabhat University (NRRU) in Thailand.

In September we will be welcoming NRRU representative Piyachat Dhephasadin Na Ayudhaya and Fr. George Thomas from DiST in India to Australia. This will be their second visit for the Going Places Project. This visit will coincide with analysis of survey data and provide time to plan for qualitative interviewing and workshops. To meet our project team visit <http://www.goingplaces.edu.au/project-partners-team>

## Reference Group

Many thanks go to our Reference Group for providing input to our survey design and we look forward to connecting with the group to assist with data analysis. Our Reference Group members are:

- Arnut Jaisamrarn, Vice President for International Affairs, NRRU.
- Ilango Ponnuswami, Bharathidasan University, India.
- Helen Edwards, Queensland University of Technology.
- Jenney Martin, RMIT.
- Cristina Florencia Poyatos Matas, HERDSA.
- Sally Kift, JCU.
- Cindy Davis, University of the Sunshine Coast.
- Anita Phillips, Australian Association of Social Workers.

## Recent exchange events

NRRU recently hosted JCU students on exchange, providing with them a wonderful opportunity to connect with community development projects in Thailand. NRRU English major students are ambassadors for the exchange, practicing their English language skills whilst teaching JCU students about Thai culture.



Going Places team member Peter Jones recently visited India as part of JCU's commitment to long-term, reciprocal research relationships. Our exchange at an academic level includes collaboration on conferences, research papers and guest lectures. Here's our favourite selfie from Peter's trip - discussing Going Places with Professor Ramaiah at the Tata Institute of Social Science in Mumbai.



JCU is also looking forward to hosting some students from DiST during September.