

Going places

2016 is the year of workshops for Going Places. Starting with the Joint World Conference on Social Work, Education and Social Development, the project team will follow up with six workshops across the Indo-Pacific Region to learn more about good practice in international social work student exchange.

Recent activity

In preparation for developing a good practice guide to international social work student exchange, the Going Places team continues to document the lessons arising from current practice. Building on survey responses from 27 out of 30 Australian schools of social work, 35 qualitative interviews have provided us with the stories behind exchange practices. Interview participants included staff from 10 schools of social work in Australia, 10 host organisations across the Indo-Pacific and students across seven universities in Australia.

Early findings

Themes emerging from the research so far highlight the importance of relationships and partnerships, ambiguous understandings of reciprocity, varying levels of institutional support and program sustainability, reliance on individual “champions” of exchange and the need for structured reflection around experiences to facilitate critical thinking and learning for students.

International exchange arrangements between Australian schools of social work and their partners in the Indo-Pacific tend to arise from opportunistic encounters, where relationships are central to the exchange partnership. Student learning takes priority for both hosts and Australian staff, however, questions remain about what constitutes effective learning, how learning can be achieved and appropriate levels of support for students during their international experiences. Risk and safety also emerged as important themes, with varying risk management responses.



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Workshops

A series of workshops will test and explore these early findings and document participant experiences to inform good practice principles. Following the Joint World Conference on Social Work, Education and Social Development, we will run a series of workshops, three in Australia and three internationally, which will also focus on project findings and ideas around 'good practice'. These will be held from August to December 2016. To find out more about participating in the workshops, contact our project manager, Elise Howard: elise.howard@jcu.edu.au

Conferences

Going Places will present at the Higher Education Research and Development Society of Australasia annual conference in Fremantle, Western Australia on Tuesday 5 July. The presentation will explore contested concepts of 'partnership' in International Exchange programs. To see some of our earlier conference presentations go to:

<http://goingplaces.edu.au/resources/>

See us in Social Dialogue, Issue 14

Going Places is featured in the most recent issue of Social Dialogue. To download the latest issue go to: <http://social-dialogue.com/>

Going Places on twitter

Follow Going Places on twitter [@GoingPlacesEdu](https://twitter.com/GoingPlacesEdu) for updates and project news. Let us know your twitter name so we can follow you too! If you would like more information about the project please contact our Project Manager, Elise Howard at: elise.howard@jcu.edu.au

Meet our team

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