Research Proposal

Research the feasibility of pre-enrolment career advice for students considering study in Vocational Education and Training (VET) Community Services programs at CQUniversity Australia.

Suewellyn Kelly
What is a Career?

A career includes all life roles - education, training, paid and unpaid work, family, volunteer work, leisure activities and more

(Department of Education and Training, Victoria, 2013).

(CQ University Australia)
What is Career Advice?

The provision of information in varying formats about courses/qualifications, occupations, career paths and labour market projections, which can support quality vocational decision making (Watts, 2010)
Who is a Career Practitioner?

Professional career development practitioners work in the field of career development and have completed a minimum recognised and endorsed Graduate Certificate

(CICA, 2011)
One of the factors that can influence student retention is that of indecision regarding clear career goals.
Literature Review

Halliday-Wynes & Misko, 2012 - Career advice programs primarily focus school aged, or recently exited post-compulsory school aged young people.

Anderson (2004) - imperative that research into adult choices and participative decision making is discrete.
Literature Review

Maxwell, Cooper and Biggs, 2000 and Watts, 2010 recommend and confirm that all people interested in VET should have access to career guidance to help with informed decision making.
The first suggested strategy from Uren’s study was to “improve pre-enrolment information to prospective students” (Uren, 2001).
Pre-enrolment Career Advice

- Provided through administration staff - qualified?
- Through testing tools that only include LLN requirements?
- Through qualified career practitioners?
I would like to ask my colleagues to undertake a very short activity adapted from John Holland’s Self-Directed Search (SDS) RIASEC model of career exploration.
Where to From Here?

Further research?

Some ideas and thoughts are presented in the following slides.
Research Questions

• What are the students’ current understanding of study requirements and career opportunities in community services work?

• Does pre-enrolment career advice better prepare prospective students for study requirements in Community Services programs?
Proposed Trial Project Stages

- **Stage 1**
  - Pre-intervention

- **Stage 2**
  - Intervention

- **Stage 3**
  - Post-intervention
Proposed Data Analysis

Thematic analysis (Creswell, Plano Clark, Gutmann, & Hanson, 2007) may provide indications of emerging themes and the interconnectedness between these themes. Coherent patterns conducive to study outcomes (Braun, & Clarke, 2006) may also occur.
Advice from the Audience

As this is a conceptual project at the moment, I would also like to ask for input/advice during our 15 minutes discussion time. Thank you 😊
References


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