The Connections for Learning Program: Supporting at risk CALD students

Faculty of Health & Academic Language and Learning Services

Prof Robyn Nash: FoH Asst Dean T&L
Stacey Lowe: ALLS
Rena Frohman: ALLS
Anna Wardle: ALLS
Johanna Einfalt: ALLS

Critical Intersections: the 12th Biennial Conference of the Association for Academic Language and Learning, University of Wollongong 25-27th November 2015
CLP: Program Goals for CALD students 2010-2015

1. Improve confidence & preparedness for workplace placements
2. Enhance academic experience
3. Build staff confidence & capabilities in relation to assisting CALD students with their studies
Connections for Learning Program framework

Language & Literacy

Academic

Socio-cultural

Professional

Student needs

Community Outreach

Workplace Integration

Staff Development

Learning to do

Learning to know

Learning to be

Learning to live together

(DeLors, 1996; Carneiro & Draxler, 2008)
Who are CALD at risk students?

- The rules
- The reality
- The paradox
Strategies and approaches

Triage
- Problem
- Severity
- Timing

Solution-Focused Brief Therapy
Present – future
Collaboration

(Chang, 2013; Franklin, 2015; O’Connell & Palmer, 2003)
At risk consultations

Overall course success rate: At risk students 2012-2014

- CLP non-attenders: 65%
- CLP attenders: 77%

n=203
The Paradox
Student Stories

B’s story
Support over two semesters
Academic writing workshops
IT workshops
Peer support
Library consultations
1:1 appointments

J’s story
Support over two semesters
Academic writing workshops
PG writing circle
1:1 appointments
Successful thesis completion
Passed all units
What have we learned?

Importance of:
• individualised attention
• relationships with unit and course coordinators

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• Limited funding & staffing
• Student choice & motivation

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No guarantee of success
Be resilient
QUESTIONS?

Connections for Learning Program
clp@qut.edu.au


Image References

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