

# 2012 Australian Awards for University Teaching

## CITATIONS FOR OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTIONS TO STUDENT LEARNING



### Ms Lynne Zeldenryk

*School of Public Health, Tropical Medicine and Rehabilitation Sciences*

#### TITLE

For ensuring flexible student trajectories through the development of an innovative program that supports and sustains student access to occupational therapy education in North Queensland.

#### ABSTRACT

My leadership in developing the first flexible delivery program for Occupational Therapy in Australia has demonstrated a considered and scholarly approach to course design. Throughout the development of the course, my research into student and staff needs informed the development and philosophy of the course. As a result, sustained student outcomes over the past four years indicate that the course met a need for a group of students who otherwise may not have had the opportunity to access tertiary health education and join the Occupational Therapy profession. The success of the development of this innovative program does much to strengthen the broader national agenda of encouraging students from rural and remote regions into high quality health education training. The continuing success of the flexi course provides clear evidence of how my scholarly approach to teaching and learning has successfully and innovatively contributed to student learning.

#### WHAT MOTIVATED YOU TO APPLY FOR A CITATION?

Within our school there is a strong history of success in teaching and learning citations. Being in an environment where other academics were involved in scholarly approaches to teaching and learning initially sparked my interest in evidence-based approaches to teaching. This interest was supported by the citation application process, which took a number of years to plan and gather evidence for. The citation process has been a positive one in terms of developing my ability to reflect on my teaching practices and how research can inform teaching and learning innovations and outcomes.

#### WHAT ARE THE KEY ELEMENTS OF YOUR TEACHING PRACTICE AND HOW ARE YOU SUPPORTED IN PURSUING THESE PRACTICES AT JCU?

Within my teaching I am primarily driven by the unique needs of our students and the JCU context of learning. Our students come from a diversity of backgrounds, work long hours to support themselves through university and often travel long distances to engage in higher education. I am motivated to explore how teaching and learning can be offered in innovative formats that can engage and support students to learn both on and off campus in ways which meet their unique needs. My particular area of passion in teaching is around flexible learning options which allow students to access and succeed in higher education. The formation of the Teaching and Learning Academy and the Flexible Learning Special Interest Group have provided support to share and learn from other colleague's experiences of delivering flexible learning options in a JCU context.

#### WHERE DO YOU SEE YOUR TEACHING PRACTICE HEADING IN THE FUTURE?

I am currently researching the needs and experiences of university staff in delivering and developing flexible learning options for our students. This research will provide evidence of the supports and barriers JCU currently experiences in delivering high quality flexible learning options for our students. I hope that the findings from this research will inform a multi-campus strategy which could assist and support JCU staff to become leaders in flexible delivery.