



INCLUSIVE PRACTICE ACKNOWLEDGEMENT AWARD RECIPIENT, 2010

TAHA CHAIECHI

LECTURER, DISCIPLINE OF ECONOMICS

AccessAbility Services is a support service for JCU students who identify with temporary or permanent disability, injury, illness or health condition. The Inclusive Practice Acknowledgement Award (IPAA) has been part of JCU's AccessAbility Services since 2000. Recipients of the IPAA are recognized for their efforts to be flexible, consultative, proactive and/or innovative. In 2010, students registered with AccessAbility Services nominated Dr Taha Chaiechi for providing additional support. In this personal account, the first time IPAA recipient reflects on her teaching practice that shows strong commitment to inclusive teaching practice. TLD's Best Practice Project brings you:

IN THE WORDS OF DR TAHA CHAIECHI

'I believe that AccessAbility Services at JCU plays an important role to minimise the impact of circumstances on affected students by providing support and adjustments '

I see my role as a lecturer to be a *facilitator* of learning not necessarily a director of a teaching session, in which I tend to offer diverse and inclusive teaching styles in order to provide all students a good opportunity to learn. This inclusive teaching reflects itself in all aspects of my teaching, delivery and assessment. I aim to provide opportunities to students to gain knowledge and insight through their discussions, and sharing of ideas with me and other students, while I intervene constructively and systematically, if required, to ensure these discussions lead students to a better understanding of the domain.

When a student is struggling with learning, I believe I, as an individual and as a lecturer, am obligated to discuss my concerns with them. This discussion is usually about student's academic progress, and what are the ways in which it can improve. A very important part of this discussion is on the range of services available to assist students, particularly those students who may be affected by circumstances.

I believe that AccessAbility Services at JCU plays an important role to minimise the impact of circumstances on affected students by providing support and adjustments, and a successful collaboration between teaching teams and AccessAbility Services can lead to indentifying strategies that will improve students' learning and participations.