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*Design thinking frameworks as transformative cross-disciplinary pedagogy: Final Report.*

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## Review of Report design thinking frameworks as transformative cross disciplinary frameworks

The primary aim of this Seeding Project was to test the proposition that “Design thinking frameworks can be implemented at the university subject level or subject planning level to successfully scaffold students' ability to solve problems and approach problems with an innovative and creative mindset.”

There is an explicit understanding that design thinking was used in the project design and implementation. If this is so, then describing how design thinking was applied to testing the proposition stated above and how effective it was as a methodology to frame and implement the project would have enhanced the report. Furthermore, keeping all the parties and stakeholders connected and engaged would have been no simple task.

The case studies presented in the report provide educators with examples of how design thinking has been used in various context across discipline areas to enhance student learning. Another important contribution is the clarification of the definition of design thinking along with a rationale for the diversity of approaches that have been used to scaffold the process of design thinking. To this end the short literature review is very useful.

The case studies also highlight innovative practice in individual subjects (education) as well as examples of wider curriculum development using design thinking (business and health). They provide examples of the use of design thinking strategies in context, with the view of highlighting transferable strategies that will be of use by multiple audiences, but academic audiences in particular, to ensure that creative students develop critical problem-solving skills, ultimately leading to innovation. This perspective certainly moves practice and student learning outcomes well beyond some of the ‘limited’ approaches that are found under the rubric of graduate capabilities.

This is a clearly written and insightful report; it is accessible and well structured, coherent and logical in terms of how it describes the project and the outcomes derived from it. One of its strengths is that it does not pull any punches, especially around the challenges faced in applying this to various disciplines and contexts.

As a seeding project the project deliverables were substantial and more than projected in the original proposal. Well done to the teams and their efforts.

### *Project Outcomes:*

- A critical literature review was conducted and used as a lens to interpret feedback from a wide range of participants;
- Six highly successful lecture/seminar/discussion events were held in Australia and Malaysia;
- Eight illustrative case studies were conducted;
- An innovative website to assist in dissemination was created;

- A series of publications has resulted;

A multidisciplinary, multi-university team was formed; an EOI for a large grant application accepted; and a large grant application to continue the work of the collaborative team has been written.

The Report itself is very useful and the results of the research presented in the report provide useful insights into learning design across a number of institutions, disciplines and programs. It reinforces the robustness of the approach and its transferability.

*Dissemination.* As this was a seeding project I dissemination was through workshops, conference presentations and publications.

*Linkages:* Were made through the development of a collaborative network of colleagues at Charles Darwin University; Queensland University of Technology; Swinburne University and Edith Cowan University. In addition, further funding was sourced from DFAT (Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade) to conduct lectures and seminars and discussions in two Malaysian Universities. I would imagine that phase two of the project would establish links with other universities and perhaps in other disciplines.

I look forward to the next stage of the project; under any set of criteria this was certainly a successful seeding project.