An Australian Learning and Teaching Council Fellowship aimed to enhance student engagement in learning through supporting the development in Australia of undergraduate research and inquiry:

- Overseas study tours to identify new resources and protocols.
- Undergraduate research scholarship project.
- Regional Roundtables held in different states.
- Australian Summit on the Integration of Research, Teaching and Learning.
- Communiqué developed.
- Website established with online resources and protocols.
- Newsletter established (URNA).

First Australian Summit on the Integration of Research Teaching and Learning

Communiqué

The first Australian summit on the integration of research teaching and learning has emphasised the vital importance of research experiences for undergraduates.

The event was co-ordinated by Professor Angela Brew, one of the founders of the Australian Learning and Teaching Council (ALTC). The aim of the summit was to bring together researchers, educators and students from all levels of higher education to discuss the role of research in teaching and learning.

The summit included a range of papers from Australian universities and of connecting undergraduate students with research.

Australia needs creative ideas and a more diversified population to become an innovative knowledge society. Further, the undergraduate experience is as vital as any in shaping the future careers of students. A critical part of this future is the vital connection between teaching and research.

If, as the Commonwealth’s report “Transforming Australia’s Higher Education System states, the Federal Government’s aim is to increase the productivity in postgraduate and create a science, technology and more competitive economic future for Australia, higher education must reach all students, not just research students, how to engage as much as possible in the production of knowledge and its application. An essential component in this equation is that those who learn are equally engaged.

Engaging undergraduate students in research and inquiry contributes to strengthening world class research and in this case with higher education in other countries, of the quality and the ability to influence the world’s Uni. The findings of the summit are outlined in the Report on the Integration of Research, Teaching and Learning.

It gives the fruit of our future competitiveness as an innovative country, a critical test of the brightest and best students, and to17

Reveals a significant opportunity for universities to be supported by future generations and to create, inspire and critically evaluate knowledge.

http://www.undergraduate-researchAustralia.com

Undergraduate Research Australia

Professor Angela Brew
Macquarie University, Sydney

May 2010

National Teaching Fellowship Report

UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH EXPERIENCE PROGRAMS IN AUSTRALIAN UNIVERSITIES

Evan Jewell and Angela Brew

Undergraduate research experience programs are widespread. 23 of the 39 universities have one or more.

- Programs cover many disciplines but there is a strong emphasis on STEM.
- Programs target elite students.
- The primary aim is to maintain and grow a pipeline of undergraduates progressing into Honours and PhD.

- Most programs have been recently established and are growing in numbers.
- There is a trend towards creating institution funded schemes offered on a university-wide basis.
- Student numbers in the programs though small in comparison to student enrolments, are significant (1500–2000) and increasing in some programs.
- Outcomes in terms of student experiences have generally not yet been evaluated.

- Funding is the primary challenge for the future, both in terms of sustainability and growth.
- Academic supervisors receive little financial or academic recognition from their universities for their role.

- Overseas study tours to identify new resources and protocols.
- Undergraduate research scholarship project.
- Regional Roundtables held in different states.
- Australian Summit on the Integration of Research, Teaching and Learning.
- Communiqué developed.
- Website established with online resources and protocols.
- Newsletter established (URNA).

http://www.undergraduate-researchAustralia.com