Embedding and extending exemplary academic integrity policy and support frameworks across the higher education sector
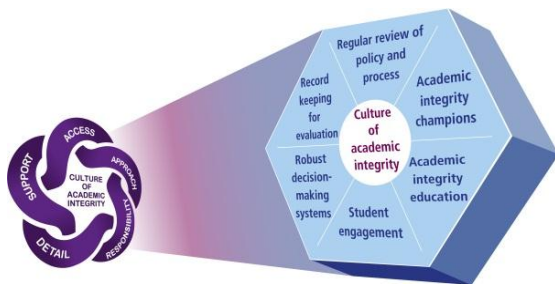

Newsletter 2, September 2013

Welcome to the final newsletter of the Exemplary Academic Integrity Project (EAIP).

Enacting exemplary academic integrity policy

Following the refinement of the deliverables at the Roundtable and National Speaking Tour, the project has made good progress. Based on an analysis of the transcripts of presentations by the five exemplary institutions at the Roundtable, the project developed a framework to enact exemplary policy (Bretag & Mahmud 2013, in progress)

Figure 1: Framework to enact exemplary academic integrity policy

The framework was presented by Tracey Bretag as part of an opening keynote address entitled Exemplary Academic Integrity Project: Lessons for Australia, Europe and beyond, at the *Plagiarism Across Europe and Beyond Conference*, Mendel University, Brno, Czech Republic, 12 June.

Academic Integrity Policy Toolkit

The Academic Integrity Policy Toolkit is currently being trialled and is available at www.griffith.edu.au/exemplary-academic-integrity-policy. The toolkit gives all Australian higher education (HE) providers access to a range of resources to develop and implement an institution-specific academic integrity policy. Using a template, policy makers can generate an academic integrity policy as a word document that can be edited. This will assist higher education providers to meet the standards required by the Tertiary Education Quality Standards Agency (TEQSA)**.** The resources in the toolkit are also available on the project website (www.unisa.edu.au/EAIP)

Tailored support resources

In consultation with TESOL SA, the project developed a plain English definition of academic integrity as:
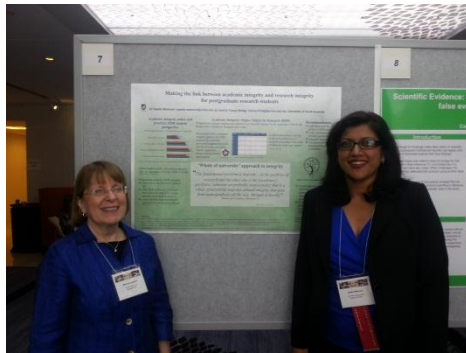
"Academic integrity means acting with the values of honesty, trust, fairness, respect and responsibility in learning, teaching and research. It is important for students, teachers, researchers and all staff to act in an honest way, be responsible for their actions, and show fairness in every part of their work. Staff should be role models to students. Academic integrity is important for an individual's and a school's reputation."

The project selected a range of support resources on academic integrity including YouTube videos, tutorials, and online

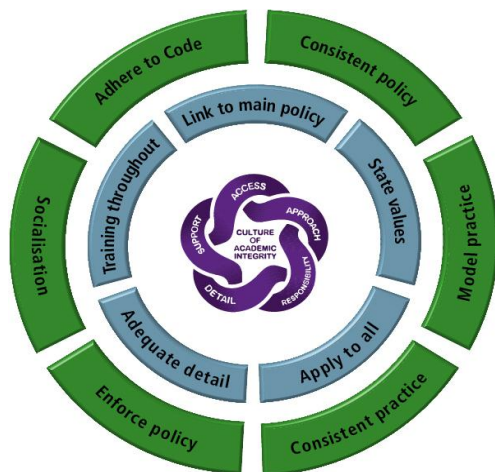resources and made these available at the project website.

HDR policy and support framework
The HDR policy analysis was shared with an international audience by our project poster presentation (Mahmud & Bretag 2013) at the *3ʳᵈ World Conference on Research Integrity* (3WCRI) at Montreal, Canada (5-8 May, 2013).

Saadia Mahmud with Melissa Anderson, Conference Convenor 3 WCRI, at Montreal, Canada, on 8 May 2013.

The project further developed the policy analysis in an *Evidence-based policy and support framework for integrity in postgraduate research* (Mahmud & Bretag 2013, forthcoming) that was presented in a poster at the *Australasian Research Managers Conference* (ARMS 2013) in Adelaide, Australia on 12 September 2013.
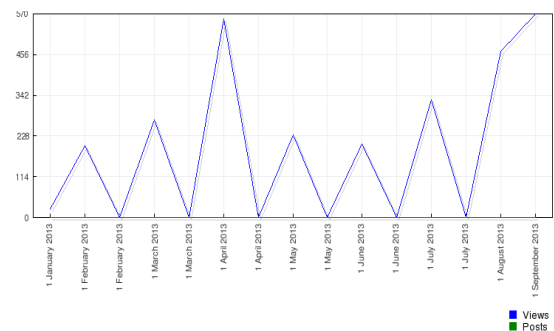

Figure 2: Evidence-based policy and support framework for fostering integrity in postgraduate research

The project has developed scenarios for postgraduate research students and their supervisors based on the *Australian Code for the Conduct of Responsible Research*.

Evaluation
As the graph below shows, there have been periods of increased interest in the EAIP site. These spikes coincide with dissemination efforts of the project including the Roundtable and National Speaking Tour (March), first project newsletter (April), poster presentation at 3WCRI by Saadia Mahmud (May), keynote address at the Plagiarism across Europe and beyond conference by Tracey Bretag (June), presentation at the ICE Benchmarking Roundtable by Leigh Pointon (July), Assessment Seminar at Griffith University by Karen van Haeringen (August), and ARMS 2013 by Saadia Mahmud and Tracey Bretag (September).

Figure 3: Visitors to EAIP website (Jan-Sept 2013)

The team also distributed a project leaflet at the events from July onwards.

Final phase
The project will be presenting its findings at the 6ᵗʰ *Asia Pacific Conference on Educational Integrity* (6APCEI) on 2 October in Sydney along with the other three strategic commissioned projects on academic integrity funded by the Office for Learning and Teaching. The project is disseminating its findings and resources both within Australia and internationally via email, social media and conference presentations. In addition, the project team is meeting key stakeholders at Australian institutions to embed the work of the project. The project will conclude on 30 November 2013.