

Communicating - Transforming - Networking

National Networking Initiative

The **seven key objectives** of the NNI are to develop a **sustainable** learning and teaching network to:

- 1) Improve the effectiveness of communication and engagement with NNI members at large
- 2) Enable and support network leaders of collaborative partners to encourage collaboration and increase membership engagement
- 3) Review the utilisation of technologies to support best practice in network engagement
- 4) Foster, encourage and support further network-based collaborative initiatives
- 5) Promote, disseminate and enhance the outcomes of Australian Learning and Teaching Council (ALTC), OLT and selected Good Practice Reports.
- 6) Conduct research into the NNI
- 7) Manage the project in an effective and efficient way.

These objectives contribute to the overarching mission of the NNI to improve engagement and practice through network leadership. The NNI is focused on improving engagement of Australasian academic staff in the scholarship of learning and teaching, fostering, encouraging and supporting collaborative initiatives; and sharing of best practice across the Australian higher education community in general. The NNI will also seek to establish collaborative relationships with other networks and like-minded groups including the state-based Promoting Excellence Networks (PEN's) and Discipline Networks to support and enhance higher education learning and teaching in Australasia.

The project is being lead by Professor Mike Keppell and Associate Professor Gordon Suddaby, who are former Presidents of ascilite and ACODE. The project is located at Charles Sturt University and supported by Natasha Hard (CSU) as Communication Officer with Maree Potter (CSU) and Karen Halley (ACODE) providing administrative support. Professor Keppell and Associate Professor Suddaby are

working with the leaders of the collaborative and enabling partners to implement the NNI objectives. The role and contribution of the collaborative and enabling partners is critical for the NNI in assisting the development of the NNI strategy as well as developing guidelines to assist in operationalizing the strategy within their own associations, nationally and internationally. Collectively, the collaborative partners have ownership of the vision, mission and objectives and the NNI is focused on supporting partner initiatives.

The NNI is underpinned by a **set of principles** for partner participation in the project. These NNI principles provide collaborative and enabling partners with guiding principles as they engage in the project and the wider academic community. **The principles comprise:**

- **Collaborative Advantage:** Partners create/ co-design new value together as opposed to mere exchange through their involvement in the NNI project. In addition, partners engage with each other through their complementary assets and skills and contribute some in-kind support for the NNI.
- **Strategic Alignment & Communication:** There is alignment between the NNI vision, mission and objectives with the activities of the collaborative and enabling partners. In addition, partners share ideas in the spirit of collaboration through open, constructive, and critical dialogue in relation to higher education learning and teaching.
- **Integrity:** Partners work with each other in the spirit of mutual trust and respect which includes having a clear understanding of the management, decision-making and financial allocation of the project.
- **Sustainability:** The NNI will contribute to integrated, generative and future-focused strategies to maintain and sustain effective leadership and best practice in higher education learning and teaching.

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