

‘Let’s Chat’- A fresh take on the invaluable role of peer-to-peer conversation in student engagement, participation and inclusion

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Abstract

This session reports on Monash University’s recently developed ‘Let’s Chat’ program, delivered at three campuses as a modularised, peer learning opportunity for students from first year to PhD. Involving 3591 student participants and facilitators in 2015 and 2016, the program responds directly to student feedback and recommendation. Let’s Chat maximises opportunities for peer-to-peer interaction with the aim of increasing participants’ confidence and competence in spoken English and intercultural communication. Informed by current trends in student-centred and peer-assisted learning theory, TESOL and intercultural communication, ‘Let’s Chat’ is quickly establishing itself as an effective approach to supporting student participation, engagement and sense of belonging in diverse teaching and learning contexts and communities. The session presents a snapshot of the genesis of the program; an evaluation of its implementation, and a summary of emerging outcomes. The session also engages participants in a conversation about how this model might be replicated in other settings.

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