

Students “at risk”

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In this presentation, an analysis is provided of a professional development workshop conducted for ELICOS teachers at La Trobe Melbourne. The workshop involved 22 teachers and 2 presenters. The aim of the workshop was to revise strategies in place at La Trobe Melbourne to support students whom teachers identify as being “at risk” of not achieving their academic outcomes within expected duration. Although all the teachers who participated in the workshop had only international students in their classes, commonalities are identified in this presentation which can be applied to teaching domestic students as well.

Initially, the presentation outlines the plan of the workshop, the objectives, the documents used as reference, and the method used in running the workshop. After this, the presentation reveals some problems with the assumptions made by the presenters in the preparation of the workshop. Aspects of the workshop where the presenters faced contradiction from the teachers are revealed, especially in the following areas:

- definition of students “at risk”
- identifying students “at risk”
- access to resources to gain students’ history
- logistical issues in contacting previous teachers
- unrealistic expectations in the follow-up required

The audience for this presentation could be made up of compliance staff, student advisors, academic advisors or anyone who plans and delivers workshops. There are useful hints for all in this presentation.

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Analysis of a workshop