

RUN LEARNING AND TEACHING AWARDS 2023

Name: Kerstin Braun and Noeleen McNamara

Institution: University of Southern Queensland

Title: Boosting the Employability of Regional Law Students

Abstract: Given that our cohort of predominantly regional law students have less exposure than city students to the wide range of career possibilities for law graduates, they sometimes have unrealistic career expectations that can lead to poorer employment outcomes after graduation. In an effort to address this issue, we developed three resources to enhance regional law students' employability knowledge and skills.

First, we created an on-demand 16-part video series with legal practitioners called Career Conversations in Law. This has been included in core Law courses since 2020. Second, since 2021 we have held annual student employability workshops, Career Connections in Law, with a panel of 3 regional practitioners who share insights into their careers. Third, we developed the 'Identity and Career Development in Law' micro-course, currently in pilot with first year law students.

The outcome is that our students, irrespective of where they are studying, have access to an employability toolkit containing multifaceted resources designed to enhance employability. The employability resources have had a positive impact on our students, as anonymous student surveys between 2020-2022 show. For example, 100% of surveyed students agree that they feel better informed and more confident about their future career paths after engaging with our resources.