



**Southern Cross
University**

Seasoning Esploro to our taste: Capturing Scholarship of Learning and Teaching (SoLT)

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Southern Cross University, Australia
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Overview

About Southern Cross University

Background to Scholarship of Learning and Teaching

Mapping Scholarship of Learning and Teaching to Esploro

Training and Reporting

Challenges

Benefits

Questions



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University**

About Southern Cross University

- 17,000 students (EFTSL 10,700)
- Over 955 FTE staff over 300 FTE Academic Staff
- Ranked “well above world standard” in 14 research fields by the latest Excellence in Research Australia
- “At world standard” in a further 23 research fields
- Ranked 100th in 2024 Times Higher Education Young University Rankings



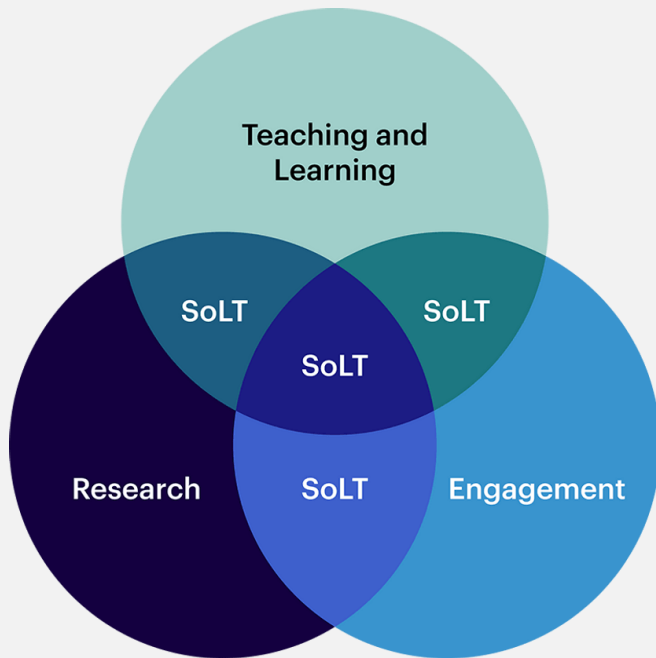
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Background to SoLT

- Regulatory compliance
 - Tertiary Education Quality Standards Agency (TEQSA)
 - Australian Skills Quality Authority (ASQA)
 - Education Services for Overseas Students (ESOS)
- Defining scholarship
- Southern Cross University reviewed reporting requirements
 - Policies
 - Academic Portfolio Office (APO)
 - Centre for Teaching and Learning (CTL)
- So what is SoLT?

SCU's SoLT Framework



At Southern Cross University, Scholarship of Learning and Teaching (SoLT) is defined as:

 **scholarly activity grounded in practice and**
 **a shared, evidence-based approach to**
 **improving our students' learning experiences and outcomes.**

– [Southern Cross University Scholarship of Learning and Teaching \(SoLT\) Framework](#)

To put this another way...



Evidence,
ideas, theory,
debates, etc.

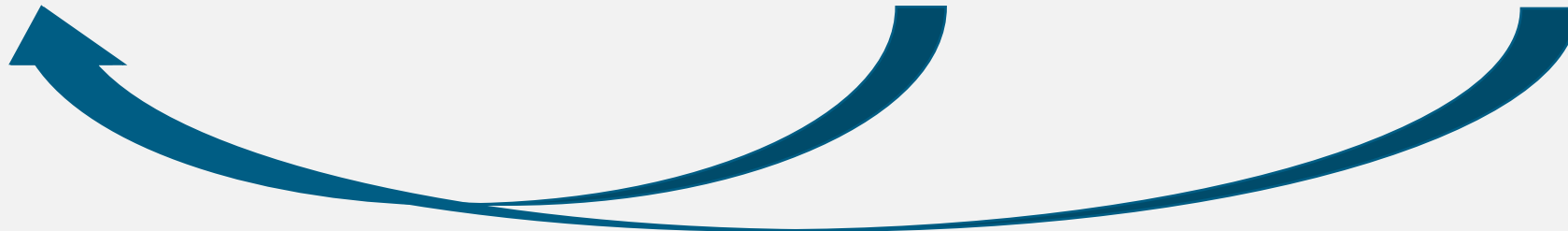
informs

Learning &
teaching

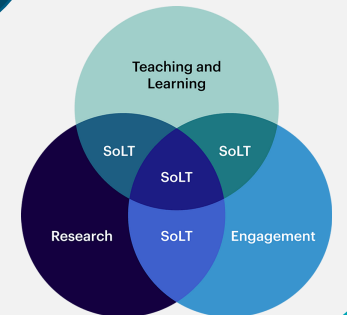
- understanding
- practice

informs

Improved
student
outcomes



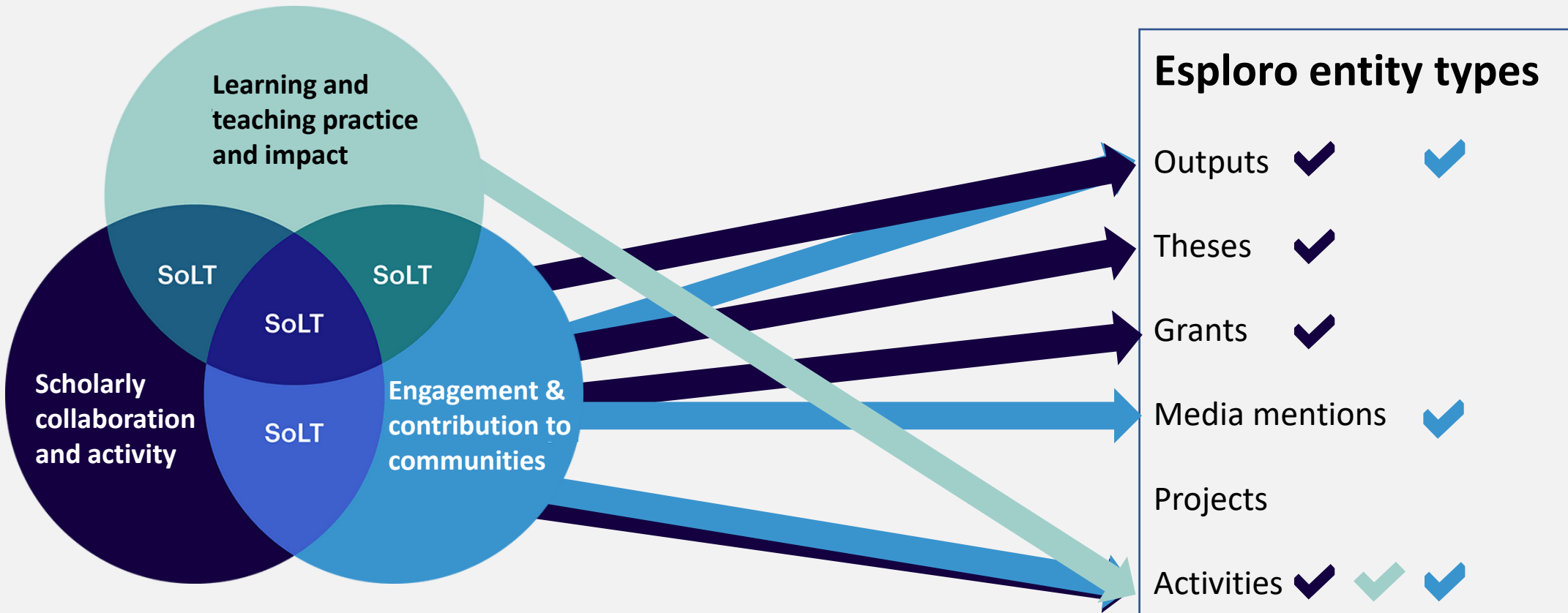
“making it public”







Mapping SoLT to Esploro



Scholarly collaboration and activity

Learning and teaching practice and impact

Engagement & contribution to communities

Outputs

Scholarly review

Journal article

Conference presentation

Panel presentations

PhD thesis

Textbooks

Seminar delivered

Conference proceeding

Conversation article

Podcast

Conference papers

Masters' degree

Book chapter

Learning and teaching practice and impact

SoLT

SoLT

SoLT

SoLT

Activities

Development of academic policy

Implementation of improved instructional strategy

Peer review for journals or conferences

Creation of improved online learning materials

Secondments

Peer review for journals or conferences

Development of improved instructional strategy

Development of new knowledge resources

Development of new standards

Development or modification of curricula to view

Use the latest ideas

Development of instructional material method

Use of technology in teaching

PhD thesis

Development of improved pedagogical

Adoption of new knowledge resources

Development of new learning processes or

Conference proceeding

Podcast

Adoption of new knowledge resources

Active membership in scholarly society

Development of new codes of practice

Scholarly collaboration and activity

Engagement & contribution to communities

Grants

Fellowships and awards

Grants awarded

Media mentions

Interviews

Editorial board for scholarly journal

Editorial board for scholarly journal

Active membership in scholarly society

Development of new codes of practice

Development of new codes of practice



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Esploro Branding

The screenshot shows the top navigation bar of the Esploro platform. On the left is the Southern Cross University logo. To its right are the words "Menu" with a downward arrow and a magnifying glass icon. Further right are the links "Outputs", "Profiles", "Organisational units", and "Contact us", each with a small dot separator. Below the navigation bar is a search bar with the placeholder text "Search". To the right of the search bar are two dropdown menus labeled "Outputs" and "All", followed by a magnifying glass icon. The main content area has a dark blue background with a network diagram pattern. The heading "Cross Connect" is displayed in large white font. Below it is a paragraph of white text: "Cross Connect is the institutional repository of Southern Cross University. It showcases our academic experts, research and scholarly publications, projects, and activities. Cross Connect supports all types of intellectual, creative and cultural outputs, including Open Access to our research and Scholarship of Learning and Teaching activities where available."



Cross Connect configuration

- Output and theses
 - Additional field
- Grants
 - Grant category type
- Media mentions

Sending a message from Profile:

Highlights (5)

Outputs (84)

Conference/Event (46)

BOOK CHAPTER

Kindness in course and curriculum design
by Mieke Witsel and Lachlan Forsyth
Published 14/06/2024

Send a message to the admin

Your message

Please flag as: Original Research - SoLT ✕

40 / 1000

Facets in Output search:

Scholarship of Learning & Teaching ^

Evidence Based Practice Solt 162

Original Research Solt 101

Scholarly Reviews Solt 4

Higher Level Qualifications 2

Overview Outputs Grants Media

Display on Profile:

SCHOLARSHIP OF LEARNING AND TEACHING

"Global Leadership Perspective: Thomas Roche and Erica Wilson"

The Chronicle of Higher Education (Liz McMillen)

16/04/2024

Open

in details of Output:

LANGUAGE English

EVENT TYPE Conference presentation

FIELDS Evidence Based Practice - SoLT

Activities mapping hierarchy

- Activity category (unable to be edited)
- Activity types

Activity Category

The Activity category is a high level category of the activity. (Note: all SoLT activities can be found under Teaching)

Select activity category *

- Clinical Work
- Commercialization
- Consulting
- Events
- Other Activities
- Service to the Community
- Service to the Institution
- Service to the Profession
- Supervision, Advising and Mentoring
- Teaching** ✓

• Mapped to the Teaching category via the Activity type category

Activity attributes per category

• We added 22 new attributes to cover SoLT

Activity Type

The activity types are set per activity category.

Select activity type

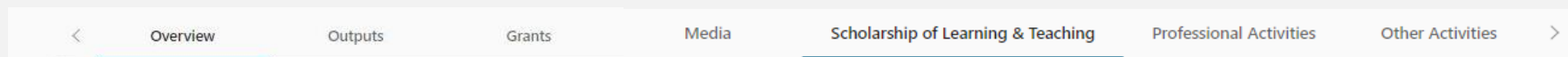
- Engagement & contribution to communities: Evidence-based practice
- Engagement & contribution to communities: Professional bodies or
- Engagement & contribution to communities: Scholarly academic soc
- Learning & teaching practice & impact: Awards
- Learning & teaching practice & impact: Specialised
- Learning & teaching practice & impact: Teaching
- Scholarly collaboration & activity: Review
- Scholarly collaboration & activity: Teaching

SoLT Attributes

- | | |
|--------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Academia | <input type="checkbox"/> Academic policy |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Accreditation process | <input type="checkbox"/> Adoption of a new standard |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Adoption of revised academic policy | <input type="checkbox"/> Award |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Benchmarking | <input type="checkbox"/> Course development |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Curriculum development | <input type="checkbox"/> Development of new standard |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Editorial role | <input type="checkbox"/> Fellowship |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Improved pedagogy | <input type="checkbox"/> International |
| <input type="checkbox"/> L&T innovation | <input type="checkbox"/> L&T review |
| <input type="checkbox"/> L&T Workshop | <input type="checkbox"/> Learning materials |
| <input type="checkbox"/> National | <input type="checkbox"/> Peer review |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Professional body or COP | <input type="checkbox"/> Quality |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Scholarly academic society | <input type="checkbox"/> Scholarly secondment |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Specialised practice | |

Save

New profile tabs



Mieke Witsel

Senior Lecturer, Centre for Teaching and Learning, Southern Cross University

Education policy, sociology and philosophy | Heutagogy | Active learning | Pedagogy of kindness

All (11)

Teaching (11)

Engagement & contribution to communities: Scholarly academic societies (1)

Engagement & contribution to communities: Evidence-based practice (2)

Engagement & contribution to communities: Professional bodies or COP (2)

Learning & teaching practice & impact: Awards (2)

Learning & teaching practice & impact: Teaching (4)

ENGAGEMENT & CONTRIBUTION TO COMMUNITIES: PROFESSIONAL BODIES OR COP

College of Peers: Designing and demonstrating advanced student learning

Mieke Witsel and Glen Croy

CAUTHE College of Peers

06/02/2024

Accreditation requires institutions to evidence that the students engage with and achieve advanced knowledge and inquiry.

In this workshop, we unpacked what 'advanced' meant and how this is demonstrated.

Using this as a framework, we then looked to assess and modify a unit's outcomes, co [Show more](#)

ENGAGEMENT & CONTRIBUTION TO COMMUNITIES: EVIDENCE-BASED PRACTICE

Staff sufficiency: Understanding, assessing and developing staff sufficiency

Mieke Witsel and Glen Croy

CAUTHE College of Peers

07/2023

In this workshop participants were guided through accreditation 'staff sufficiency' needs. Staff sufficiency is a combined demonstration of educators' discipline or field qualifications, research or industry achievements, and educational expertise. A fictional institutional case study was used t

nuances of assessing staff sufficiency, identifying gaps, and prioritising short-term acti [Show more](#)

ENGAGEMENT & CONTRIBUTION TO COMMUNITIES: PROFESSIONAL BODIES OR COP

Implementation of HE standards at my institution: Understanding the

Training



Scholarly collaboration and activity

[Create an SCU Profile on Cross Connect](#) +

[Add Outputs to your SCU Profile on Cross Connect](#) +

[Flag existing Outputs as SoLT on your SCU Profile on Cross Connect](#) +

[Add SoLT Activities to your SCU Profile on Cross Connect](#) +

[Add Media mentions to your SCU Profile on Cross Connect](#) +

[Add Grants to your SCU Profile on Cross Connect](#) +

[Add Theses to your SCU Profile on Cross Connect](#) +

How to enter on SCU Profile on Cross Connect

Published review (if not auto-harvested): Add Output > Publication > Review

Unpublished review: Add Activity > Teaching & Learning > Scholarly collaboration & activity: Review

Unpublished review (if not auto-harvested): Add Activity > Teaching & Learning > Scholarly collaboration & activity: Review

How to tag as SoLT

Published review: Message via profile to advise output is SoLT (Scholarly Reviews)

Unpublished review: Activities automatically sent to ADE for approval as SoLT

Outputs: Message via profile to advise output is SoLT

Videos



Create an SCU Profile



Add Outputs



Add Activities

Grants: email crossconnect@scu.edu.au with grant information if not already on file

Unpublished review: Add Activity > Teaching > Scholarly collaboration & activity: Teaching

Activities automatically sent to ADE for approval as SoLT

participation in accreditation processes or quality reviews in T&L

teaching, and the development of new (constructively aligned) courses

The impact on student learning outcomes, student feedback, and student engagement and performance improvements can also be measured (iQILT data).

Levels of reporting

- For the Academic
 - CV export
- For Associate Deans (Education) → **Approval Process**
 - Quarterly Dashboard
 - Need ADE to return list of Approved Activities or they will not show on the other reports
- For Faculty management
 - Semi-Annual Dashboard (in progress)
- For Faculty Board, Academic Standards & Quality Committee and Academic Board
 - Semi-Annual Dashboard (in progress)

Complexity of reporting

- Combining different entities into one Dashboard using SQL
- Internal Researcher ID vs User Primary Identifier (required normalisation)
- Multiple internal organisation units duplicate data
- Dates: update date, input date, approved date, submitted date, no date
 - Internal field or keyword added for Outputs, Grants, Media mentions to indicate Quarter
 - Updated date used for Activities
- [SoLT Dashboard](#)

If no data is displayed below then there are no applicable Activities for this work unit in Cross Connect.

SoLT Activities

Quarter (Activity updated) All ▾

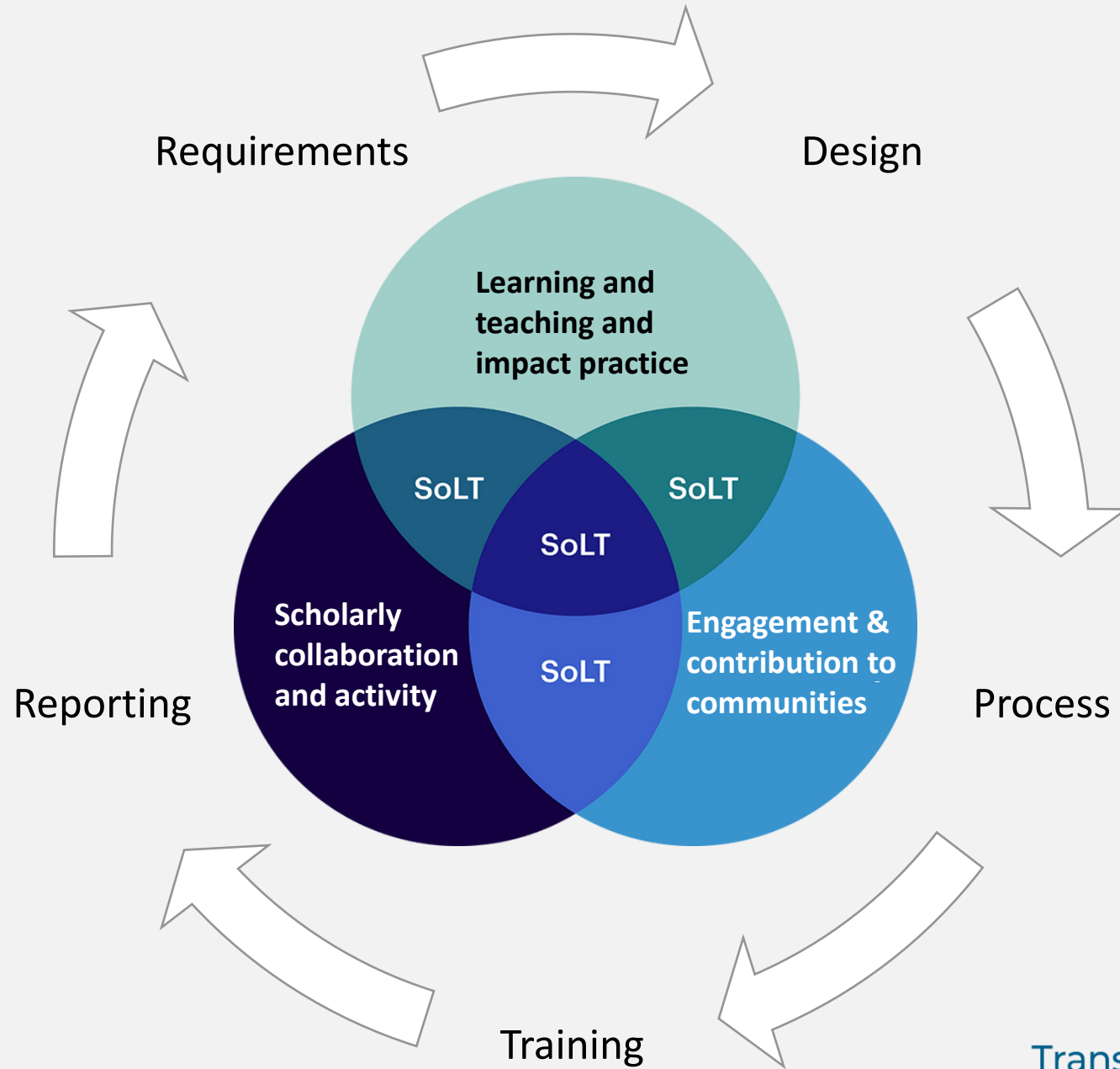
No: Activity not approved as SoLT

SoLT type	Activity title	Approved as SoLT ▲ ▾	Activity date	Researcher Members names list	Description	SoLT attributes	Research topics and keywords
Engagement & contribution to communities: Evidence-based practice	Teaching Under the SC Model I: Designing Courses	No: Activity not approved as SoLT	19/06/2024 to 19/06/2024	SC10918 - Haw, John (); SC106127 - Kalamir, Nikola (Presenter); SC8649 - Nisbet, Sharen (Presenter); SC124162 - Robbins, Michael (Presenter)	Funded by the Australia Awards Papua New Guinea through their academic strengthening initiative, this full-day workshop provided local lecturers at IBSU Port Moresby with the opportunity to learn about the structure of the innovative SC Model and its courses. The morning session included discussion and group activities on integrated curriculum, graduate attributes, course learning outcomes, threshold standards, and accreditation competency areas. The afternoon session was focussed on constructive alignment theory and the assessment driven nature of the SC Model. Participants were required to write unit learning outcomes using Blooms taxonomy and suggest authentic assessment tasks, learning activities and relevant content. At the conclusion of the day, participants were invited to anonymously evaluate the workshop with a 7-item survey.	Course development; Curriculum development; Improved pedagogy ; L&T Workshop	Academic Development; Constructive Alignment; Course Mapping; SC Model; Teaching and Learning Policy
		No: Activity not approved as SoLT					

Yes: Activity approved as SoLT

SoLT type	Activity title	Approved as SoLT ▲ ▾	Activity date	Researcher Members names list	Description	SoLT attributes	Research topics and keywords	Course Id
Scholarly collaboration & activity: Teaching	Adobe US Study Tour and EduMax 23	Yes: Activity approved as SoLT	16/10/2023 to 20/10/2023	SC124553 - Greenaway, Ruth ()	Adobe US Study Tour and EduMax 23 includes gaining key insights on how institutions are future proofing by strategically embedding innovative pedagogies & technologies into their institutions. glimpsing into the future by exploring the pertinent, top	International; L&T innovation		

Review
and
refine



Challenges

Internal challenges

- Wordiness of labels
- Vagueness and overlap between categories
- Conflicting needs from stakeholder organisation units
- Unclear requirements for reporting
- Increased workload

System challenges

- Top level Activity Category couldn't be renamed
- Unable to make fields required
- Training challenges: translation between SoLT and Esploro entities
- Building reports for proof of concept – can't be done in Sandbox

Benefits

Institution

- Tangible evidence of SoLT at SCU for TEQSA
- Solution within existing infrastructure

Academics

- Tangible evidence of SoLT for Academic Promotion

Future of Cross Connect at SCU

- Beyond an institutional repository

Where to from here

- Review and refine processes
- Streamline ingest using templates where possible
- Define reporting requirements for Academic Board
- Expand Esploro Activity Categories use to capture Academic engagement beyond SoLT



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Questions?

Southern Cross University

Maureen Bezanson and Margie Pembroke
crossconnect@scu.edu.au

Transforming > Tomorrow