Quality of Nursing Doctoral Education (Australia)

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Australian Doctoral Programs

- Predominately based on mentorship model
- Limited number of prescribed courses
- Increased emphasis on graduate attributes
- Majority are PhD students in Higher Research Degree Programs, lower numbers in professional doctorates
- Supported by Research Training Scheme places
Deans \((n=7)\)

- Majority interdisciplinary involvement in their PhD
- Majority received doctoral degree external to baccalaureate degree school
- Variable pathways of entry from Bachelor of Nursing (Hons), Masters or demonstration of RPL
- Overall satisfaction with governance procedures
Faculty ($n=13$)

- 63% respondents at Professorial level
- 85% higher degree at PhD level
- 40% received PhD in school currently working
- 100% aware of rules and procedures
Quality of the research basis for the doctoral program ($n=13$)
Supervision includes areas appropriate for a degree in nursing ($n=13$)
Quality of supervision in the doctoral program ($n=13$)
Students \((n=33)\)

- 87.9% female
- 63.6% part time
- Majority fee remission as federally funded Research Training Scheme Places
- 100% reported clear and transparent requirements regarding course requirements
- 75.8% agree resources to undertake projects (clinical sites and collaborators)
- 14.3% publication in press or submitted
Quality of staff supervision in doctoral program ($n=33$)
Systems to foster quality research

\( n = 33 \)
Conclusions

• Small sample size limits definitive conclusions
• Overall congruence between perspectives of Deans, Faculty Members and Students
• Discrete differences between US Models and Australia
• Excellence in Research Australia determines many schools of nursing are scoring at Level 5 – “well above world standard”