

Roundtable discussion

Quality versus quantity: Issues in moving to online only evaluations of teaching and units

Keywords: Evaluation, online, response rates.

Across Australia, universities are considering the move to online questionnaires for use in the student evaluation of teaching and units. Many institutions are currently using online questionnaires in selected areas but have not yet made the leap to an online only system. In an economically struggling higher education environment, the savings made from moving online are considerable, less administration and data entry or scanning. Current research, however shows that there may be a price to pay in terms of lower response rates.

Murdoch University has run online evaluations over a number of years and is currently considering a gradual move over the next four to five years to online only. The presenter will provide background from her own experience of online evaluations and consider issues raised by the current research in the area. Ideas and experiences of participants, whether teachers or those involved in running evaluations, should provide a fruitful discussion.

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