

**Developing a University School Partnership-
The nexus between, and benefits for, University and schools
in the early stages of partnership development.**

ABSTRACT

Relationships between initial teacher education providers, schools and teachers have shown a dramatic shift in the past decade. Through reviews of education, such as Ramsey (2000), there has been strong focus to restoring this link. One strategy encouraged in current research is the development of partnerships between universities and schools.

This paper examines Edith Cowan University's (ECU) partnership with schools within the Swan Education District of Perth and how this partnership, in its initial stages, has demonstrated ECU's ability to remain at the forefront of educational reform, meet the needs of its student teachers, schools and teachers.

Evaluative comments, obtained from school principals and/or school practice coordinators in semi-structured interviews are discussed.

The paper concludes by discussing the implementation of strategies to strengthen the functioning of the partnership and to attract new partnership members.

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