

HDR SUPERVISOR DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

CORE TRAINING PART 2 WORKSHOP

OFFICE OF GRADUATE RESEARCH

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WORKSHOP QUESTIONS

ONLINE MODULE REFLECTIONS AND DISCUSSION

Based on the online module you completed in preparation for this session, have a think about the following question. We will discuss your responses in the workshop.

QUESTION 1

INTRODUCTION: THE DOCTORAL CONTEXT

How has your understanding of the doctorate and your role as a supervisor changed as a result of completing the module? Thinking about those you supervise, what new approach(es) can you take that will reflect these new insights?

SCENARIOS

SCENARIO ONE

AUTHORSHIP, SUPERVISION AND POWER

You are an associate supervisor. You have been called into a meeting – organized by the PhD student – to discuss a problematic situation with the principal supervisor.

At the meeting, the student stated that she will not be ‘adding’ the principal supervisor’s name to her publications because he has not completed the requirements for Authorship as determined by the Australian Code for the Responsible Conduct of Research.¹ Refer to page 4 – R 25.

Researchers will:

- Ensure that authors of research outputs are all those, and only those, who have made a significant intellectual or scholarly contribution to the research and its output, and that they agree to be listed as an author.

The student had evidence to prove that the document on which the article was based had never been read by the principal supervisor.

What is your role in the meeting and how will you advise the student and the supervisor to reach a resolution?

¹Australian Code for the Responsible Conduct of Research, (Australian Government, 2018), https://www.nhmrc.gov.au/files_nhmrc/file/publications/17628_nhmrc_nhmrc_the_australian_code_for_the_responsible_conduct_of_research_-_v1-1-accessiblefinal_0.pdf and supporting Authorship Guide <https://www.nhmrc.gov.au/about-us/publications/australian-code-responsible-conduct-research-2018#block-views-block-file-attachments-content-block-1>

SCENARIO TWO

FREQUENCY OF DOCTORAL MEETINGS

A doctoral candidate has just commenced his candidature. He wants weekly meetings with supervisors during the first six months. You are the associate supervisor. The principal supervisor sees his other students once a month.

How will the supervisory team manage this request? What view will you present in the meeting: how often should meetings be held – for this student and more generally? What is required from the supervisor and student in preparation for these meetings?

SCENARIO THREE

WITHDRAWAL OR COMPLETION

A PhD student comes to see the Dean of Graduate Research, not sure whether to continue or withdraw from her doctoral programme.

The Dean reads some of her chapters. The standard of the work is fine. Therefore, the Dean phones you as the supervisor and asks for your commentary on this situation.

- What will you tell the Dean?
- What are the characteristics of PhD students that finish their PhD?
- What could be happening to / with this student?
- What do you think are clear, strong and convincing reasons to withdraw from a doctoral programme?