



Student Voice

Practitioners offer their observations on formal study and how it influences their work.

Denise Jelicich

I guess the main impact my study has had upon my practice is that I now have a strong theoretical framework upon which to base my actions. It's definitely helpful when you understand the 'bigger picture.' I also think that any sort of study is good in that it gives the brain a bit of a kick start. When you are working, you often tend to go through similar thought processes on a day to day basis. If you are preparing or writing an assignment you seem to engage a different part of the brain (critical analysis) and that tends to 'rub off' in your day to day thinking. Well, it does for me!

Eileen Andrews

After getting my job at Northland College (350 students then) and having no experience or qualification, I was told about NMIT's Diploma in Career Guidance and so enrolled. I have since moved back to Kerikeri High School (1440 students), and I'm currently the Careers Advisor, Gateway and STAR Coordinator.

I have learnt a lot about the theory of Career Guidance, and so that is always in my mind when working with students, especially Parson's know yourself, opportunities then combining that to find a career or job that you enjoy. I definitely tell kids they should enjoy their work, (so the focus is not \$\$, but this helps). I have started units of work to be completed in 1 hour of pastoral time each week, focussing on the Career Guidelines that are Self Awareness, Exploring Opportunities and Deciding and Acting. This is from Year 7 to Year 13. We are aiming for all teachers to be able to assist students with Career Education and not one person 'holding all the knowledge'.

I try to encourage students to reflect on what *they* want. I hear stories (as we all do) of students who followed career paths purely on the suggestion of parents, teachers and friends, only to fail miserably.

A big part of what I took away from my course was to record what I discussed with students (even briefly - career path, subject choices, and goals) and have since integrated it into the school Student Management System, so others can help students with reaching their goals.

Confidentiality was integral to the course, however I tell students that I will discuss them with those who may be able to assist and that it will be on the SMS. I don't think they tell me less because of this, maybe more as they want the help.

Students need to own their own career path, so I guide them to do their own research, CVs, Uni applications etc. I am more than happy to assist, e.g. proof read and go over applications.

That way I am not overworked in that sense and the students experience success in their own work.

Paul Cochrane

I have been working on the Gateway programme since its inception in 2001. Although I have had what I consider a tremendous amount of life experience I have had no formal career training. I had never heard of Holland, Inkson or Super. As a result I often questioned if I was doing things correctly. Should I be telling a student this or saying that? As it turns out for the most part I have been on the right track. Doing the course has verified and validated my career practice. Knowing I am performing correctly and that I know what I am talking about has given me much more confidence.

Doing the NMIT course has enabled me to recognize problems that may arise and has given me more ways to find solutions to these problems. Before doing the course I had already thought that I had a fair amount of self awareness and self knowledge (I know who I am). Doing the course has not only helped me to help and understand my clients it has also helped me understand and know a lot more about myself. I think you would agree this is a necessary "trait" for any careers advisor.

John Lee

The context of my career study is the all important factor in influences on my practice. Having a year to study full-time has provided an opportunity to ground my practice in theoretical sense. The study authenticated a lot of what I was doing and in this validation affirmed the last three decades of a job I love doing. I have discovered that others have discovered narrative also. This awareness has given me confidence to trust instinct but still be guided by sound theoretically based practice. The time I have allows further discoveries such as Bill Law's Career-Learning Theory* which resonates, helping to reduce frustrations over the constraints of formal learning.

* <http://www.hihohiho.com/>