A renewed curriculum for youth work professional education in Universities (ALTC Grant in progress)

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This presentation outlines the curriculum framework used in a current Australian Learning and Teaching Council project to renew the curriculum of Australian youth work professional education in universities. The project uses Barnett and Coates' curriculum framework to analyse the existing curriculum for youth work professional education, and to develop the curriculum to meet future needs. Barnett and Coate argue that the curriculum has three components, 'knowing', 'acting' and 'being', and that different disciplines typically have characteristically different balances of relative importance of each of the three domains. This concept of curriculum aligns well with the aspirations of youth work professional education within higher education and provides a useful tool to distinguish the different contributions of VET and HE professional education. However, the biggest challenge is to develop teaching processes that support the 'being' and 'becoming' component of education. The presentation provides an overview of the rationale and purposes of the project, and preliminary analysis of existing youth work curriculum in higher education, including some discussion about how this element might be achieved.