

**TITLE:**

Smart ALEC (Academic Literacy Education Course): pre and post course evaluation.

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**ABSTRACT**

Equity and diversity has opened the university to a large number of students who may have entered the University using different ways of demonstrating appropriateness of application. For some students, this may mean that they have not followed a traditional pathway and consequently, whilst having a large repertoire of skills and experience, have not as yet developed academic literacy. Coupled with this is the ATAR score of 55. The School of Nursing and Midwifery has a large portion of students from this group who, as a consequence, have difficulty meeting the academic requirements of the course.

It is believed that to take a “built in” approach to supporting students develop academic literacy will see an improvement in students’ abilities to meet the requirements of the University and better prepare students to graduate within ECU’s scope of a graduate. This academic program focuses on what students *can do*, as such it rewards students for improved academic performance with a certificate “Smart ALEC” and a celebration of achievement.

This paper discusses the piloting of this program for students enrolled in the first semester of a three year academic undergraduate degree. Students are derived from nursing and paramedical students. An evaluation is undertaken using pre and post test analysis. Paired T testing was undertaken of student scores in the first instance and a 20% improvement in score is anticipated.