Game based learning resources to address Indigenous students’ financial literacy skills

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Abstract:
We are showcasing a game-based learning resource addressing financial literacy. This is a skill identified in the action plan reflected in the National Financial Literacy Strategy 2014 to be lacking in our next generation. It is also a key challenge raised in the consultation held in 2013 led by the Australian Securities & Investments Commission to enhance Indigenous Australian financial well-being.

This new interactive teaching game will be trialled with ITEC students in the maths unit. It aims at motivating our students to use their learning style by providing a “culturally appropriate” learning resource that is designed to suit the more visual in a situated context of relevance to them in their everyday lives. By playing the game, students are allowed more chances to engage and apply their knowledge, get a response quickly, learn from the feedback before progressing along their decision-making process. If implemented successfully, the project concept will be adapted and adopted across the ITEC course and into other different sectors including prisons, TAFE, schools and through outreach into indigenous community.

Game based learning (innovative) would:

- capture attention through the provision of more graphics and animation
- involve learners in scenarios that simulate real life to achieve deeper understanding
- allow them opportunities to make mistakes and learn from their mistakes through “trial and error”
- make learning more fun, relevant and practical (hands on)
- increase retention and motivation.

Most importantly, game-based learning meets the Indigenous ways of learning by addressing their recurrent learning styles which include visual learning, concrete learning within specific contexts and learning through experimentation.

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