

## **Project Peacock: Enhancing the LGBTIQ+ student experience at the University of Western Australia**

Liberty Cramer  
The University of Western Australia

In 2016 the University of Western Australia undertook a pilot study <sup>1</sup> to explore 264 LGBT students' experience at the University - the first of its kind at UWA, and the authors believe the first in the Australian Higher Education sector. While revealing that most (63.2%) of the participants found the climate of their classes to be accepting of LGBT people, it also highlighted that 20% of participating students felt their sexual orientation and/or gender identity/expression had disrupted their academic progress. UWA is active in the diversity and inclusion space as an AWEI Platinum Employer (a top ten organisation for LGBTI inclusion in Australia) and it is committed to fostering an environment where students and staff feel welcome. UWA's Ally Working Group and the Educational Enhancement Unit have jointly designed a new development opportunity to equip teaching staff with the knowledge and skills required to meet the need to better support their LGBTIQ+ learners.

This presentation will introduce Project Peacock, a series of online self-paced training modules which will develop a better understanding of the LGBTIQ+ student reality in teaching staff and equip them to demonstrate inclusion through their words, actions, and cues. The modules adopt a carefully scaffolded multi-modal learning design approach centred around short videos of personal narratives. These videos allow LGBTIQ+ staff and students, as well as straight Allies, to give voice to their own powerful stories and speak directly to the viewer, enhancing staff understanding and appreciation of the realities of their lived experiences. Attendees will have the opportunity to explore the modules' design and development process, preview select videos, and leave with inspiration for how they can support LGBTIQ+ students in their own practice.

<sup>1</sup> Dau, D., and Strauss, P. (2016). The Experience of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Trans Students at The University of Western Australia: Research Report 2016. Equity and Diversity, The University of Western Australia, Crawley.