



# Achievement Statement- BUTLER

## Sociology Teaching and Indigenous Issues

The OLT grant Sociology Teaching and Indigenous Issues provided an opportunity to develop a national critical conversation on Indigenising the discipline of Sociology. In doing so, the project engaged with a range of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander forums including the National Indigenous Research and Knowledges Network and the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Higher Education Consortium. Outcomes of the project linked to these organisations included workshops, node meetings, conference papers.

The Fellowship allowed for a movement away from a “bolt-on” model of Indigenisation to include theoretical innovations, particularly in the Sociology of Religion, challenging the use of founding sociologist Emile Durkheim. This discussion led to key note addresses and panels, but was also successful in generating discussion within the public arena that include media interviews with ABC Radio National and the Catholic Women’s network. Similarly, the Fellowship engaged with the mainstream Feminist Sociology, linking with other Office of Learning and Teaching and Australian Research Council initiatives through the ‘Gendered Excellence in the Social Sciences’ project and the first ever GEA Feminist Teacher Symposium.

The Fellowship utilised alternative dissemination exemplified by the workshop *Indigenous Sociology for Social Impact*, which used live tweeting, blogging and a podcast as a means of generating different social media savvy dissemination outside of standard academic formats to reach and reflect the breadth of the sociological workforce.

A major recognition of the national profile, Associate Professor Butler developed as a consequence of the Fellowship was being named as a National Finalist in the Australian Financial Review Emerging Leader category of the AFR Higher Education Awards. This coupled with the new networks established provide a solid foundation to expand in the future.

*Support for this project has been provided by the Australian Government Department of Education, Skills and Employment. The views expressed in this publication/activity do not necessarily reflect the views of the Australian Government Department of Education, Skills and Employment.*