

## RUN LEARNING AND TEACHING AWARDS 2023

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**Institution:** University of New England

**Title:** An inclusive pedagogy for student wellbeing at the University of New England

**Application Category:** Innovation and Learning

**Abstract:** An 'Inclusive Pedagogy for Student Wellbeing' is a cross faculty collaboration at the University of New England. Emphasising a comprehensive conception of inclusion, this initiative focuses on student empowerment and strengths-based teaching. The signature pedagogy leverages principles drawn from Universal Design for Learning, Culturally Responsive Pedagogy, Trauma-informed Pedagogy and a Pedagogy of Care.

This evidence informed pedagogical work comprises: teaching and provision of feedback through multiple modes; the development of teachers' online social presence and pastoral care; the fostering of cultural awareness, respect, responsiveness, and safety; and the promotion of students' connectedness with lecturers, peers and the institution itself.

Through the project's lifespan (2021-2023), core outputs have emerged: a wellness toolkit centred on students and the integration of the evidence-based Signature Pedagogy supporting student well-being in units across all faculties at the university. Scalability is evident in the expansion from 12 units (2021) to 56 (2023).

Survey and qualitative focus group feedback has emphasised a positive effect on students' well-being, with significant innovations in inclusive strategies tailored to address mental health. Given its foundational design for sustainability, the project's continued growth and potential for replication in other institutions signals its capacity for lasting impact, enhancing students' resilience and wellbeing.