

Dear Colleagues, you are invited to attend this important information session in your capital city in February 2013.

Changing the Game: The Australian Council of Deans of Science (ACDS) National Centre for Teaching and Learning for Science and Mathematics



Assoc Prof Elizabeth Johnson, Associate Dean (Academic),
Faculty of Science, Technology and Engineering at La Trobe University

February 4 – La Trobe University, Melbourne (10:00 am, SEMS Meeting Room 221, Level 2, Physical Sciences 1)

February 5 – Flinders University, Adelaide (10:00 am, Physical Sciences – Room 1300)

February 11 – The University of Sydney (10:00 am, New Law Annexe, SR 444)

February 15 – Griffith University, Brisbane (10:00 am, Griffith South Bank Graduate Centre, Southbank Room S07_2.16)

Please RSVP to SaMnetAustralia@gmail.com for catering purposes – and feel free to **forward this notice to your faculty colleagues!**

Abstract: Faculties teaching science and mathematics need to shift their expectations and support of renewal to achieve broad scale improvement in teaching practice. The sector is developing a rich network of groups and individuals collaborating to develop improved teaching practice including discipline and leadership networks, national projects and national leaders in learning and teaching. **Recently, the Australian Council of Deans of Science (ACDS) has begun work towards a National Centre for Teaching and Learning for science and mathematics. The new Centre will be a focal point for effective models for organizational change and curriculum development.** It will focus the energies of learning and teaching leaders onto change at Faculty level by constructing good practice guides providing distilled advice for teaching and learning. **The Centre will draw on the experience of learning and teaching leaders, science faculties and associated discipline groups to offer authoritative advice to Universities and external bodies.** The ACDS Centre will be available to the sector through its website which will also link together existing groups, projects and leaders. The Centre website will house good practice guides to be commissioned by the Centre and a practice exchange which encourages dissemination of good ideas between disciplines. The ACDS Centre will also provide timely advice for the ACDS on teaching and learning. ***In this session, attendees will be invited to contribute their ideas and views to make the new ACDS Centre as relevant as possible.***

Profile: Liz is the Associate Dean Academic in the Faculty of Science, Technology and Engineering at La Trobe University and leads curriculum renewal in the Faculty. Major projects include La Trobe's Design for Learning project which embeds graduate capabilities into a renewed curriculum across the Faculty, and the Pathways in Science project which is a major review and development of courses. Liz trained as a plant biochemist and contributes to teaching in foundation biochemistry at La Trobe. Liz's current research interests are in the scholarship of teaching and learning. Current research projects focus on strategies for curriculum development in the sciences, quantitative literacy support mechanisms and teaching scientific inquiry. Liz is also active in a number of national initiatives in science and maths in higher education funded by the Office for Teaching and Learning (DEEWR). She is a member of the [SaMnet](#) leadership project, the [VIBEnet](#) (Vision and Innovation in Biology Education) project, and is the evaluator for the Transitions in Biology project. She was co-investigator on the recent ALTC project exploring scientific inquiry skills in biosciences.