

Powering up the work of Flexible Learning Providers through strategic partnerships and networks

Louisa Ellum – educationalist, strategist, advocate and learner

*PhD Candidate - Peter Underwood
Center, UTAS*

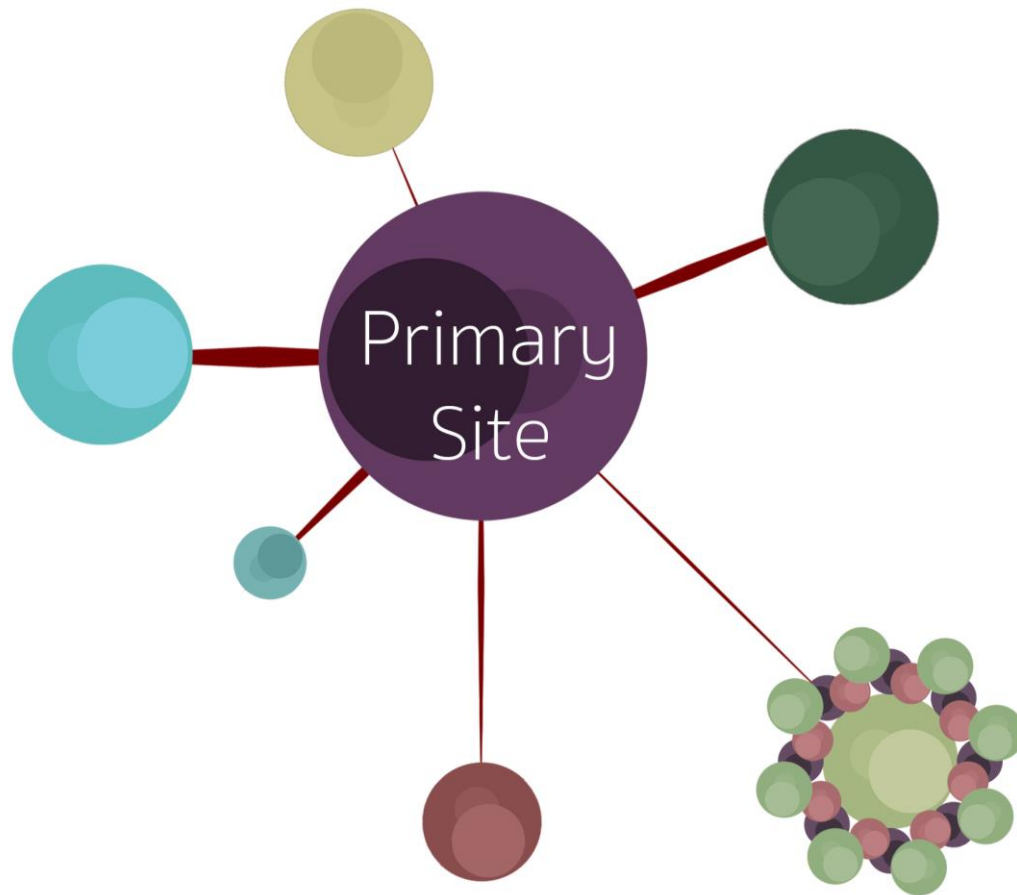
Education and partnership context

“The priority for the decade ahead is to learn how to use *collaboration systematically* to accelerate *improvement in outcomes* across diverse, *flexible education systems*.”

(Bentley and Cazaly, 2015)



My PhD research



What is the nature of partnerships in the work of flexible learning providers?

- a) How do flexible learning providers and their partners define and understand the nature and meaning of partnerships?
- b) What are the forms, purposes and functions of partnerships?
- c) How are partnerships developed and maintained?
- d) What are the outcomes that are established and enabled through partnering?

FLPs - what do we know?

- Importance of partnerships, community collaborations and the “wrap-around social services”.

(McGregor et al, 2015)

- The role partnerships can and do play in broadening opportunities for curriculum, post-school pathways and work experience.

(Mills and McGregor, 2010)

- Current research of flexible learning providers identifies that partnerships play an important role in supporting programs and the complex needs of marginalised young people.

(Te Riele, 2014; Zyngier et al, 2014; Ellum and Longmuir, 2013)

- “...know we can’t do it ourselves”.

(Mills et al, 2013, p.17)

FLPs, partnerships and the policy space

- What is policy?
- System and societal considerations
- Purpose and goals of learning and education
- Being held to account
- Whole systems focus
- Policy alignment
- Policy architecture
- Multilateral policy

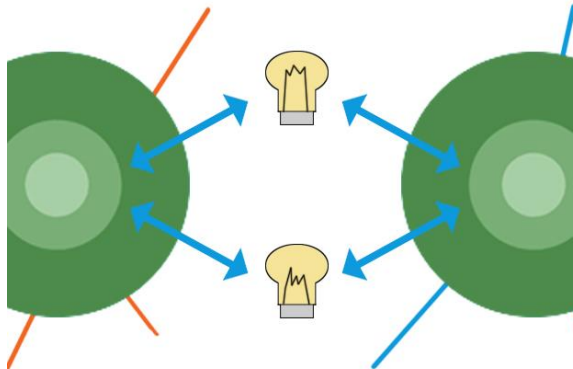
Inside-out/ 'being' approach



Place-based and strengths-based

What do you need?
Why do you need it?
Who can do it with you?
What will they benefit from working with you?

Networks



Solution together

No one can do good work alone
Find the mutual benefits and the greater opportunities
Think laterally, broadly and with opportunity in mind

Outside-in / 'doing' approach



The puzzle approach...

Good partnerships are like a puzzle
and the pieces are the partners
The whole picture is shown once
everyone works together for a
common goal



To continue a
conversation
with me...

LOUISA ELLUM –
LOUELLUM@GMAIL.COM



THANK
YOU!

