Roles And Responsibilities Of Research Centre Postgraduate Facilitators

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Many universities have Graduate Schools which, under the leadership of a Dean or Director, are responsible for policy and operational matters pertaining to the Research Higher Degree (RHD) programs, offer professional skills training to both students and supervisors, and take an active role in grievance conciliation and resolution (DDOGS, 2002). Some universities also engage Department, School or Faculty postgraduate coordinators to act as intermediaries between the student/supervisor team and the Dean/Director of the Graduate School, and these coordinators oversee the work of all RHD students within their respective unit. Cooperative Research Centres (CRC) and other large research centres employ Education Managers or Officers who have roles and responsibilities within their centre that overlap with those of the Dean/Director and postgraduate coordinator, but often oversee RHD students from multiple universities. Education Managers/Officers have an important role to play within their centre, but usually fall outside of the official university’s postgraduate management structure so have little or no ability to remedy the slow progress or poor performance of students or supervisors. This paper will explore some of the roles and responsibilities of research centre postgraduate facilitators, specifically those of the CRC Education Manager/Officer, and discuss whether these CRC postgraduate facilitators should have a more formal role in a university’s management of its RHD students.

Reference