

PRIORITY PROJECTS 2006

PROJECT & TEAM DETAILS

<i>Project Title</i>	Improving the Formative and Summative Assessment of Novice Computer Programmers
<i>Priority Area</i>	Assessment Practices
<i>Lead Institution</i>	University of Technology, Sydney
<i>Partner Institutions</i>	Monash, QUT, University of Sydney, USQ

PROJECT SUMMARY

What is the Project designed to achieve (ie. Outcome)? (50 words)

This project will produce a collection of integrated software systems that will provide automatic formative and summative assessment of computer programming ability. Subsequently, in every year, over fifteen hundred students across the five participating institutions will benefit from these systems. Dissemination workshops in Brisbane, Sydney and Melbourne will have prepared academics at other institutions to use these systems.

How will the project achieve this (ie. Method/approach)?(150 words)

The participating institutions bring to this project extensive prior experience in innovative, international-standard approaches to assessing programming students. Two of the participating institutions have built and use software systems for automatic formative and/or summative assessment of programming. Academics at the other three participating institutions have developed methodologies for assessing novice programmers. However, improving the assessment of computer programming is a large and multi-faceted problem. Each of the participating institutions has focused upon different but complementary approaches to this assessment problem. By combining their existing work, the participants will produce a comprehensive approach to what is the most important problem in ICT education. The software systems will be made available to other universities. During the project, progress will be communicated to other institutions via seminars. Near the end of the project, one-day dissemination workshops in Brisbane, Sydney and Melbourne will be open to ICT academics from any institution.

To assist in analysis and web searches please list key descriptors/ search words ie. Themes /Target Groups/ Disciplines addressed. For example: Multicultural, Deans, Biology,

Discipline: Information Technology/Computer Science

Target Group: Practising teachers (i.e. lecturers) of introductory computer programming

Themes: Formative assessment, summative assessment, computer programming, electronic assessment