Higher Degree Research writing symposium - call for abstracts

Writing is a central concern for higher degree research (HDR) student progression and completion rates. The building of HDR student writing capacity encompasses multiple, divergent and interconnecting responsibilities and models. A symposium to be held at the University of Sydney on October 3rd focuses on two primary touch points for developing student writing:

1. The student supervisory relationship, and;
2. Institutionally endorsed spaces from which programmatic and/or centrally delivered writing ‘support’ may be provided by faculty academics, academic developers, and academic language and learning educators.

The symposium, supported by the Association for Academic Language and Learning, will showcase diverse practices from a range of universities for developing HDR student writing. It will provide opportunities for supervisors, deans and directors of graduate research, academic developers and academic language and learning educators to discuss what works – and what might work better in the contexts of their institutions.

We are seeking abstracts of 250 words in length describing practices and models within, or traversing the two primary touch point spaces that we have identified. We want to know what is happening in these spaces that is innovative, that works, and that encourages students to write. We are interested in papers that not only share practice but that also:

1. Provide evidence of what works;
2. Discuss current or potential links between providers of writing instruction;
3. Identify debates, constraints and enablers in the building of HDR student writing capacity;
4. Address pedagogical or curriculum issues;
5. Raise issues of responsibility for building student writing capacity.

When submitting your abstract, please nominate your preference for either:

1. A short 5 minute showcase describing an innovation – maximum 5 slides per presentation;
2. A longer 20 minute presentation which provides a deeper reflection based on one or more of the five parameters of interest identified above.

Please email your abstract by July 16th 2014. We are very much looking forward to receiving your abstracts and will notify you of the outcomes of your submission by August 15th 2014.