ABSTRACT

Implementation of Inclusive Design principles in the LMS online course environment: A CoI approach at University of Auckland

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When Inclusive Design is referred to in the higher education context, it is commonly associated with planning and designing learning environments that meet the diverse and variable needs of all students and staff. Nationally, there is currently strong advocacy for New Zealand Government to introduce legislation that would set out minimum access standards for workplaces, institutions and public.

In response to this initiative, the University of Auckland has employed the community of interest (CoI) approach this year to address inclusive design as an opportunity to go beyond just awareness of equity issues and take action in the academic community, making a tangible, achievable difference. The Inclusive Design working group has been formed this year as a grassroots movement of learning designers, learning advisors, learning services librarians, disability learning advisors, professional teaching fellows, ITS and Canvas support team members, with the aim to run a promotional and educational campaign, design and implement Inclusive Design principles into academic course LMS /Canvas environment, curriculum design, as well as staff training and professional development venues (online, workshops, publication/promotion, best and worst practice examples and guides).

This presentation will address the guiding principles and practice of this grassroots working group, the output and staff training resources currently being developed and applied to ensure both ACODE and Inclusive Design standards are addressed in the new course development. Participants will have the opportunity to gain insight into the CoI collaboration model, the Inclusive Design resources and curriculum development materials they can take away and apply/implement in their instructional practices and work with students and academic staff.