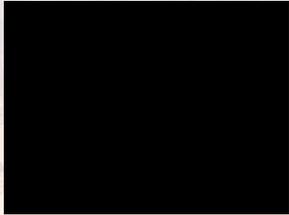# E-nabling e-portfolios for skills recognition of Aboriginal Artworkers in Central Australia

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What am I going to cover?

- Why this project?
- Where are we at with e-portfolios and skills recognition?
- Using an RPL support tool and an open-source e-portfolio platform with Aboriginal Artworkers
- Participant perspectives
- What we learnt
- Issues for consideration
- Future directions


Why this project?

- Desart, an innovative business partner with an existing information technology training and support initiative for its member Aboriginal Art Centres
- 2008 Senate Enquiry into Australia's Indigenous Visual Arts and Crafts sector
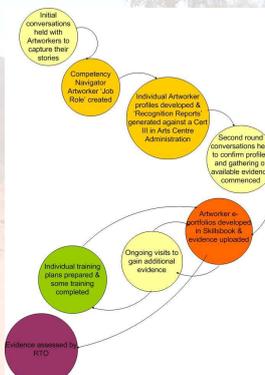- The Desart Aboriginal Artworker program

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Where are we at with e-portfolios and skills recognition? E-portfolios
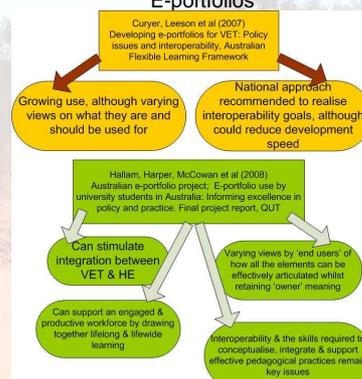
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Where are we at with e-portfolios and skills recognition? Skills Recognition

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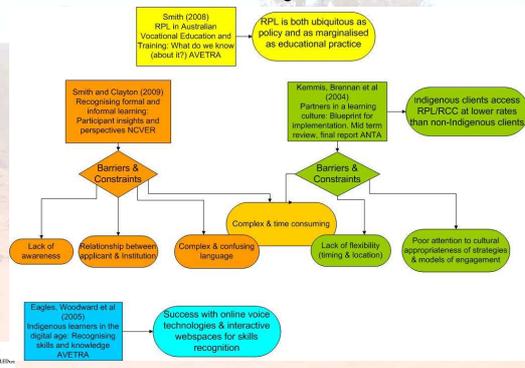
Using an RPL support tool and an open-source e-portfolio platform with Aboriginal Artworkers

Competency Navigator in Action
Creating Job Roles

Competency Navigator in Action
Reports

Competency Navigator in Action
Skills Recognition

Competency Navigator in Action
Skills Recognition Reports

Skillsbook in Action
Getting Started

Skillsbook in Action
Uploading and Storing Evidence

Participant perspectives

- Artworkers
  - Sharing stories
  - On-site evidence collection
  - Getting all information in one place
  - Wide range of media reduced reliance on English
  - Tailored future training
- Art Centre Managers
  - On-site reduced time away from their job
  - Clarified and confirmed skills and knowledge
  - Tailored future on-the-job training

Participant perspectives

- Desart
  - Customised of skill recognition requirements
  - Improved understanding of skills recognition process
  - Supported implementation of Strategic Plan
- RTO
  - Ensured demand-driven solutions
  - Focussed on administrative processes
  - Skills recognition plus additional training facilitated awarding of whole Units
  - More effective and efficient training
  - Reduced assessor travel

What we learnt

- Artworkers and Art Centre Managers
  - Sharing stories takes time
  - Need assistance to locate and deliver evidence
  - Memory sticks are useful
- Industry and RTOs
  - Partnerships are productive
  - Takes time for industry to understand VET practices
  - RTO skills recognition staff need to spend time with learners
  - Artworkers need their own web-enabled computer and workspaces

Issues for consideration

- **Sustainability** relies on an on-going relationship between all participants
  - If it meets the Artworkers aspirations, it will be sustainable

- **Competency Navigator** is a useful skills recognition support tool
  - Self-management of skills recognition by Aboriginal Artworkers is not a reality in the short-medium term

- **Skillsbook** is a useful repository for information, evidence, assessment, reflection and communication
  - Multimedia storage on Web 2.0 sites requires additional training and support to create personal spaces and to upload and embed information

Future directions

- Strong partnership between Desart and RTO
- Ongoing training and evidence collection and assessment with Artworkers
- Development of support tools for multi-media/e-portfolios
- Operationalising a national e-portfolio in remote Aboriginal contexts????

Thank you

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