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## PD for VET teachers by VET teachers: An evaluation

*Jo Balatti James Cook University  
Martha Goldman Tropical North Queensland Institute of TAFE  
Phil Harrison Tropical North Queensland Institute of TAFE  
Bob Elliott Southern Queensland Institute of TAFE  
Meredith Jackson Wide Bay Institute of TAFE  
Gillian Smith Southern Queensland Institute of TAFE*

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## What is TROPIC?

***Teachers Reflecting On Practice In Contexts***

**Purpose:**  
To support teachers to implement effective strategies for positive teacher-learner interactions and to continuously improve teaching practice through sharing and reflection.

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## Components of TROPIC

**Principles of TROPIC**

- Voluntary
- Confidential
- Nonjudgmental
- By teachers for teachers

**Elements of TROPIC**

- PD in effective teaching strategies
- PD in mentoring/coaching
- Peer observations of teaching practice and feedback
- Professional conversations

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## Logistics of action research approach

- Three institute based teams with members of each team comprising a fourth inter-institutional team
- Duration: approx 15 months
- Monthly teleconferences, wiki , presentations & workshops
- External researcher

<http://tropic.wikispaces.com/>

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## What happened?

- Extent to which TROPIC “took root” in each institute varied
- TROPIC embedded itself in each organisation differently
- TROPIC evolved in each institute differently
- Common challenge: The mentoring aspect

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## Why did this happen?

- Organisational structure
- Subcultures
- Capacity to implement innovation

## Is the TROPIC model of PD worth pursuing?

*Yes providing .....*