

Student Feedback on the Awards process to be place on the Internet - Authors' permission received <21/08/08

'The experience of participating in this process has been really positive, for the following reasons:

1. It is not often that PhD research is conducted solely with policy in mind, as students are often very focused on investigating the (exciting) preliminary gap in knowledge that their literature review has revealed. For this reason, I found this project invaluable in helping me understand the link between my findings and informing policy, and in thereby giving me the opportunity to make a contribution towards development of a policy that is evidence based. It has been really rewarding to know that my work is being read by policy makers. Thank you for this.

2. The Paper of Excellence award has helped raise my profile as an emerging researcher in ageing, which in this current competitive environment, is extremely important. I am also happy in the knowledge that I have, in the course of this project, liaised with senior members of COTA Over 50s and have found the experience to be most enjoyable. In my own environment at QUT, the award has given me a credibility boost among the other academics in adult learning, which has the potential to make them regard the study in a more serious light.

I hope the award continues from strength to strength, and would be delighted to assist COTA Over 50s with endorsing future award projects should the need arise.

Thanks again'

Cappy Engelbrecht

'I found the experience invaluable for learning about the process of turning research into policy material. Thank you for the opportunity.'

Andrea Petriwskyj

'As a researcher, you need many skills. Writing for COTA gave me a rare opportunity to develop the skills necessary to prepare a policy-directed paper.'

Natalie Chan

'... I'm glad the process has come to fruition for COTA and the students involved. Your support of the Masterclass is greatly appreciated by all.'

Linda Peach (Research Officer and Co-ordinator of the Emerging Researchers in Ageing initiative,

ARC/NHMRC Research Network in Ageing Well)