

Education *about* and *for* sustainability in Australian business schools

Stage 3

Partnering corporations and business schools

Program description

There is a growing need for managers and leaders who have the capacity to create and implement organisational change strategies for sustainability. In response, corporations and business schools are recognising the importance of their role to develop, foster and encourage these capacities.

For this reason, **Stage 3** aims to build partnerships between corporations and business schools to improve organisational capacity to address sustainability challenges, and accelerate change to achieve tangible sustainability outcomes. This year-long action research program is bringing together sustainability champions from business schools and corporations across Australia in a collaborative process of learning-based change.

This grounded research is funded by the Australian Government Department of the Environment and Water Resources and supported by Macquarie University.

Background to this program

Stage 1 examined business schools in Australia and overseas to identify and benchmark best practice in education *about* and *for* sustainability in Masters of Business Administration (MBA) and Executive programs. **Stage 2** focused on driving change within seven leading Australian business schools that worked together to make changes to their MBA program using Education for Sustainability and action research.

What this program aims to achieve

This program aims to develop learning insights, partnerships and resources that will support the long term goal to develop a leading edge MBA course in sustainability. By partnering business schools with corporations to re-examine their MBA course structures and content, the corporations' capacity to better address environmental and sustainability concerns will be improved. Expected outcomes from the program include:

- changes in business school teaching, resources and curricula which incorporate learning insights and resources generated from the program
- corporations and business schools moving from awareness to implementing changed policies and practices that lead to improved sustainability outcomes in the organisations' operations
- new and stronger partnerships among corporations and business schools to build engagement and capacity
- a Community of Practice involving participating corporations and business schools to generate and share knowledge and experience
- improved identification and dissemination of effective learning and management practices that generate organisational change for sustainability.

Why this program is different

The program involves academic, business and student participants in collaborative research and change, informed by **Education for Sustainability** and **action research** to build engagement and capacity. This learning-based approach to embedding systemic change generates both learnings and tangible outcomes that extend beyond the immediate participants and the project. Bringing participants together provides a valuable platform for dialogue, sharing and stimulating sustainability practice, and presents further opportunities for sustainability leadership to emerge.

For further information, please contact:

Program Director: Janelle Thomas
Email: jthomas@gse.mq.edu.au

Program Coordinator: Jeremy Mah
Email: jmah@gse.mq.edu.au