

From the Bright Lights of the City to the Shadows of the Bush: Expanding Knowledge through a Case-Based Teaching Approach

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Abstract : Concern about the lack of knowledge of quality teaching and teacher retention in rural and remote areas of Australia, has caused academics to improve pre-service teachers' understanding of this problem. The participants in this study were forty students enrolled in an undergraduate educational course (EDO3341 Teaching in rural and remote communities) at the University of Southern Queensland in Toowoomba in 2012. This study involved an innovative case-based teaching approach in order to broaden their generally under-informed understanding of teaching in a rural and remote area. Three themes have been identified through analysing students' critical reflections: learning expertise, case-based learning support and authentic learning. The outcomes identified the changes in pre-service teachers' understanding after they have deepened their knowledge of the realities of teaching in rural and remote areas.

Keywords : rural and remote education, case based teaching, innovative education approach, higher education

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