

# Going with the flow(chart) makes decision-making easier

Alison Reedy, Amanda Janssen, Alison Lockley and Penny Wurm, Charles Darwin University, Northern Territory

## Focus Area: Academic integrity breach decision-making

Academic integrity breach decision-making is guided by the governance context of higher education institutions, yet the sheer volume of policy and procedure documents that overlay day to day activity, and the formal language in which they are written, can present challenges for staff members and students. In order to address this issue at Charles Darwin University, relevant policy and procedure documents were translated into flow charts, cartoon scenarios and supporting resources. These resources were developed to make the decision-making process around breaches of academic integrity clear and accessible for staff and students.

These resources represent exemplary practice in that they are “easy to read, well written, clear and concise” (Bretag et al., 2011 p. 6), which supports the consistent and effective application of policy and procedures. An important component of the resource development was their refinement over time through consultation with staff and students. The consultations also built a shared understanding of academic integrity breach decision-making across the university. The flow charts and other related resources are available at: <https://www.cdu.edu.au/academic-integrity>

### Lessons:

- The visual representation of policy and procedure documents enhances their accessibility and use;
- Wide consultation with students and staff is important to achieve a user-friendly product.



### Reference:

Bretag, T., Mahmud, S., Wallace M., Walker R., Green M., East J., James C., McGowan U., & Partridge L. (2011). *Core elements of exemplary academic integrity policy in Australian higher education*. *International Journal for Educational Integrity*, 7(2), 3–12. doi: 10.21913/IJEI.v7i2.759