Enabling Scale and Ownership Without Sacrificing Quality of Course Design

CATHOLIC EDUCATION
DIOCESE of PARRAMATTA

Cidi Labs Customer Since:
2019

Website:
www.parra.catholic.edu.au

Industry:
K12 / Vocational

Institution Demographics:
4000 registered students
80 schools

DesignPLUS

Background

The Catholic Education Diocese of Parramatta (CEDP) is proud to be seen as a leader in innovation and its delivery of blended courses and pathways.

As part of their organisation they have a Registered Training Organisation (RTO) delivering Certificate I, II and III qualifications to over 4000 registered high school students across the diocese. These services are delivered over 80 schools across Western Sydney and the Blue Mountains in NSW.

The Role of Online Technologies

The CEDP is not unique in terms of being an RTO, but they are unique in terms of how they fulfil their mission.

Cluster classes exist across the diocese allowing students from multiple schools to come together at a host school to undertake courses where the essential resources and qualified staff are available. Students can go to other schools to access them whilst still retaining enrolment at the home school.

The RTO takes a blended learning approach where key resources, learning activities and competencies are online via Canvas and progress tracked easily by all stakeholders. In 2022, CEDP has developed courses online using both CanvasLMS and DesignPLUS from Cidi Labs, for approximately 14 qualifications, and will migrate the remainder to this platform next year.

Making scale with quality possible

One of the key principles in guiding what they do is that "quality assurance doesn't begin with checking and actually begins with ease of implementation". With the templates built in DesignPLUS and mapped onto "master courses", establishing course standards was quick and easy.

Consistency in course design and effective content presentation were major cornerstones of the project. They chose to move their educational programs to Canvas as they wanted high quality learning experiences that leveraged high-literacy visual media resources prior to the pandemic. DesignPLUS has enabled the RTO unit to significantly increase operational efficiency and deliver consistent well-designed instruction.

When initially moving content to Canvas some key quality issues were identified. They found DesignPLUS was the secret sauce in reducing these issues as well as minimising effort, increasing quality of presentation and organisation, and enabling more efficient student learning.

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"DesignPLUS not only provides you with the ability to promote quality practices through easy deployment by the course teacher but allows a variety of users across your instance to share and collaborate where resources shared are instantly branded as their own therefore removing yet another hurdle in our educators' busy lives."

David Sheil,
eLearning Manager (CEDP)

"What a gift to be given something as a basis for your teaching to complement what you're doing in the classroom. The fact that teachers can involve, collaborate and annotate to build a quality product. It's a great platform in that respect. Very powerful."

Irene Pereira, **CEDP RTO Manager**

Results

CEDP has seen significant success since rolling out DesignPLUS. A key factor of this has been the localised ownership of the courses. DesignPLUS has enabled resources to be built and styled to meet CEDP design and curriculum standards and for these to be easily redistributed to associated schools. When deployed using DesignPLUS "styles", these are automatically adapted to the branding of the school based on the Canvas sub-account the course is housed in.

The RTO team, for example, has 13 different iterations of a course on Construction. Each School has a local teacher working with a version of this course. Because this local iteration now shows up with the school colours and logo, the teacher now feels that the course is theirs and they can adapt it the same as they do in their other campus courses.

DesignPLUS makes it possible for teachers to feel empowered and take ownership of their courses, with minimal overhead for the organisation.

A template that embeds best practices

Reduced design burden on teachers

Consistent high quality student experience

DesignPLUS