

ECU hosts the first Regional Network meeting for West Australian members of the SAGE Pilot of the Athena SWAN Charter in Australia, 30 May 2016

ECU led the first Regional Network of the WA members of the SAGE Pilot of the Athena SWAN Charter in Australia at the Joondalup campus on 30 March 2016. This was the first in a series of ongoing meetings where fellow universities and research institutes can discuss the emerging challenges and opportunities in improving gender equality over the next two years through the Bronze Institutional Award application process.

The SAGE Pilot of the Athena SWAN Charter in Australia is an international accreditation scheme which recognises a commitment to supporting and advancing women's careers in science, technology, engineering, maths and medicine (STEMM) in higher education and research. This initiative is extremely relevant as Australia has a concerning deficit of women in (STEMM) and the Athena SWAN Charter has a proven track record in the UK with a history of advancing the careers of women in higher education and research sectors since it was established in 2005.

Representatives from Curtin University, Telethon Kids Institute and The University of Western Australia met with ECU to discuss relevant gender equality topics including social inclusivity, impact of working culture, gender outcome based reporting, intersectionality themes and the effectiveness of existing policy and its application.

As an educational institute, ECU will address the role it plays in the journey of staff and students through their education and careers. This will require extensive analysis of both quantitative and qualitative data in order to identify trends and emerging themes. Alongside fostering an environment of diversity, ECU will engage with its community members through ongoing events and discussions aimed at removing barriers to gender equity by making improvements to practice and organisational culture.

In the spirit of collegiality, the Regional Network will bring education and research institutes together to address a nation-wide priority.



Picture: WA Regional Network members of the SAGE Pilot of the Athena SWAN Charter in Australia meet for the first time at Edith Cowan University.