Motivating students to engage in postgraduate research degrees in ICT

ALTA Forum April 2013
What inspires students to undertake higher degrees by research?

- Dr Cally Guerin & Dr Damith Ranasinghe, Adelaide U
- Dr Paul Calder, Flinders U
- Dr Alistair McCulloch, UniSA
- Collaborators:
  - Dr Ivan Lee, UniSA
  - Said Al-Sarawai, Adelaide
  - 2 Students engaged in the qualitative and quantitative analysis of data

Tuesday, 9 April 13
Work done so far ...

- Ethics approval from all 3 universities – completed in Feb 2013
- Surveys designed & underway at all 3 universities
  - Undergrad (69)
  - Honours & masters (46)
  - PhD (35)
- Completed focus groups with PhD students

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Where</th>
<th>Gender</th>
<th>Origin</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Adelaide</td>
<td>5 male, 4 female</td>
<td>3 local, 7 OS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Flinders</td>
<td>4 male</td>
<td>3 local, 1 OS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UniSA</td>
<td>10 male</td>
<td>10 OS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ACSW</td>
<td>3 male, 3 female</td>
<td>2 local, 2 PR, 2 OS</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Initial results from surveys

Undergraduates (n = 69)
- NOT interested in research (n = 59)
  - Start earning $ (58% strongly agree)
  - Tired of study (49%)
- Interested in research (n = 10)
  - Invent/create/discover (60% strongly agree)
  - Lecturer demonstrated relevance to real life (50%)

Hons/masters (n = 46)
- NOT continuing into research (n = 31)
  - Start earning $ (61% strongly agree)
  - Tired of study (40% strongly agree)
- Continuing into research (n = 15)
  - Want to find out more (67% strongly agree)
  - Want to invent/create/discover (60% strongly agree)
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Current HDRs

- Want to find out more (85% agree or strongly agree)
- Want to invent/create/discover (60% strongly agree)
Still to come ...

- More surveys
- New crop of final year undergrads
- Analyse results
- Factor analysis
- Conferences and journals
  - HERDSA, QPR, ICED, SRHE, ...