



# **AHELO Feasibility Study Australian Participation**

## **Phase 1 Outcomes**

**AHELO Australia Symposium**

**ACER**

**October 27, 2011**

## Overview

- AHELO Phase 1
- Australian engagement, participation and implementation
- Qualitative Outcomes

## Implementing Phase 1

Student Focus Groups and  
Academic Review

Analyses of outcomes

Analyses of feedback

Revision of instruments

Final AHELO instruments





## Participating Australian Universities

Charles Darwin University

Curtin University of Technology

James Cook University

Swinburne University of Technology

The University of Adelaide

The University of Melbourne

The University of New South Wales

The University of Newcastle

University of Technology Sydney

University of Western Sydney

# Student Participation

- 78 student participants from Australian universities – final year Civil Engineering

		National	
Demographics		(n)	%
<b>Gender</b>	Male	60	76.9
	Female	18	23.1
<b>Age</b>	20	4	5.1
	21	18	23.1
	22	26	33.3
	23	12	15.4
	24	9	11.5
	25	3	3.8
	26-30	3	3.8
	31 and above	2	2.6
<b>Citizenship</b>	Australia	54	69.2
	Other country	23	29.5
<b>Language background</b>	English	52	66.7
	Other language	25	32.1
<b>Total students</b>		78	100.0

- Two hour session
- Students undertook one Constructed Response Task and two modules of MCQs (60 mins)
- Students completed short survey about the assessment items
- Moderator conducted focus group discussion of assessment items, guided from 'IC Manual'

## **Outcomes possible from next phase will likely include:**

- Reliable estimates at institution level
- Ability to examine outcomes by student characteristics
- Benchmarking against 'like' institutions internationally

## Responses to the student feedback survey

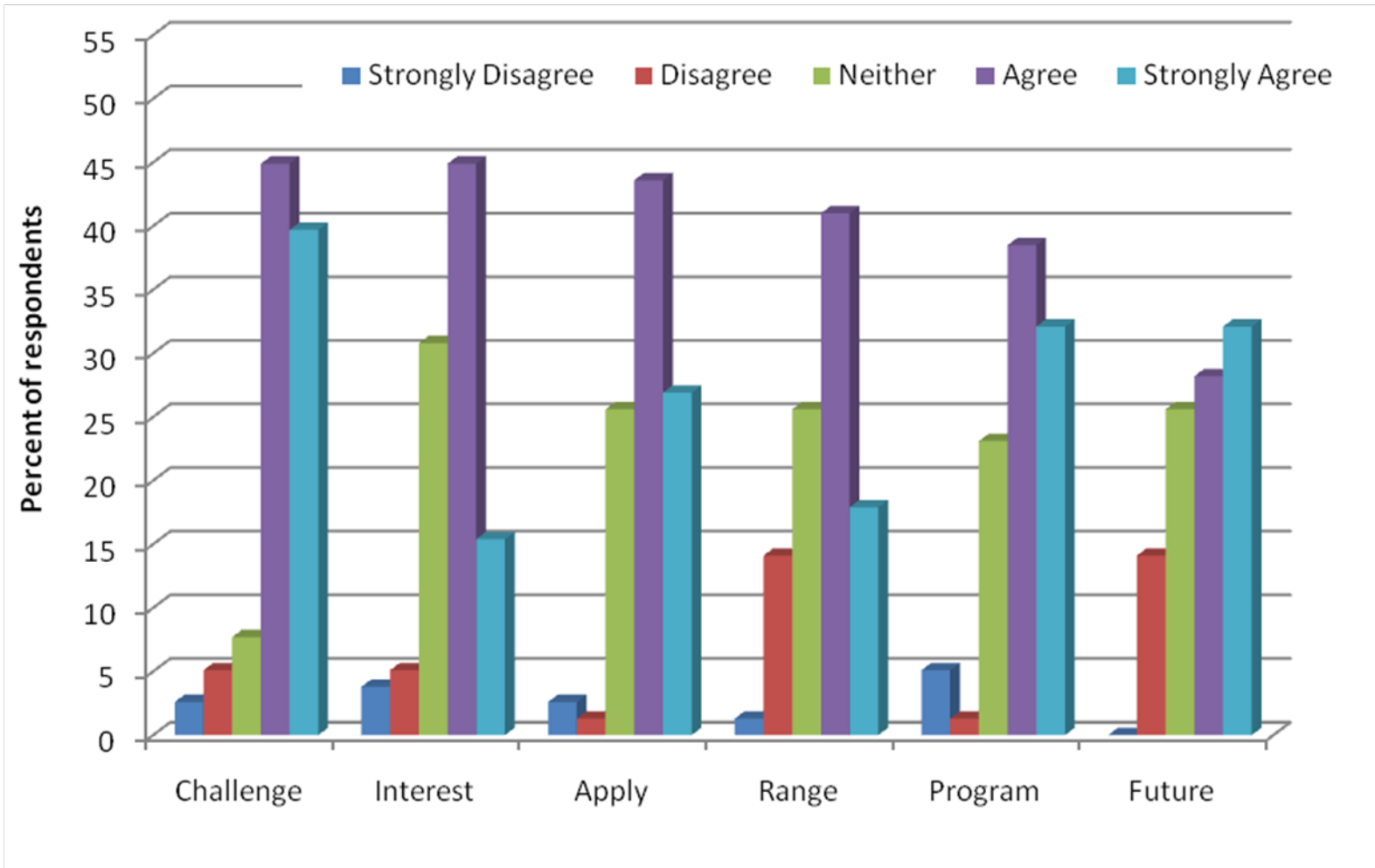
### *Items of focus:*

- The task challenged me to think (***challenge***)
- The materials stimulated my interest in the task (***interest***)
- The task made me apply knowledge and skills in real-world ways (***apply***)
- The task assessed an appropriate range of knowledge and skills (***range***)
- The task was relevant to my program of study (***program***)
- The task was relevant to future professional practice (***future***)



# Qualitative Outcomes

## Feedback on Constructed Response Tasks



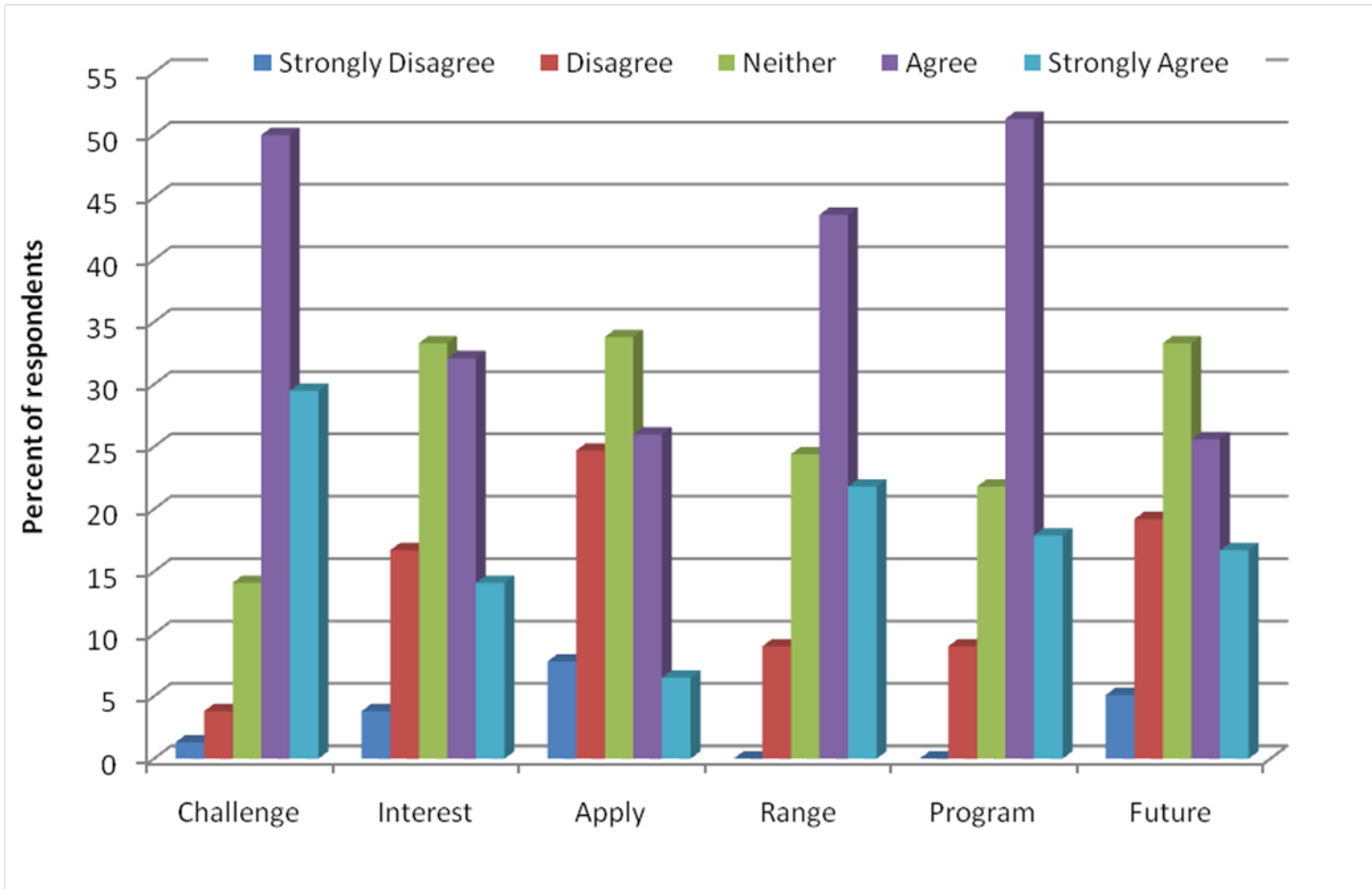
## *Feedback from Moderator Survey*

### **Constructed Response Tasks paraphrasing of responses:**

- The task made sense and the instructions were adequate.
- Students general approach/strategy to completing this task by scanning the full task and all questions, then going back and working through sequentially. Although some just worked thru sequentially and others scanned then answered the 'easy' questions first.
- Was the task interesting?
  - Overwhelmingly – 'Yes', because: diagrams, 'real-world problems', 'different to how we are tested usually'.

# Qualitative Outcomes

## Feedback on MCQs



## *Feedback from Moderator Survey*

### MCQ Modules paraphrasing of responses:

- Formulas would have helped:
  - ‘would have been able to answer more with a reference sheet’
  - ‘guessing doesn’t happen in real world engineering scenario’
  - used to having this material in uni assessments
- Some felt there was knowledge required that hadn’t been covered in their course due to electives, or that subject not until next semester.
- There was familiarity in the format – ‘more like uni tasks’
- Very recall/memory oriented:
  - frustration at not remembering: ‘I’ve forgotten so much!’
  - would have been ‘easy’ if asked at the time of learning this content
- Was the task interesting?
  - Less so than Constructed Response Task
    - not so real-world oriented
    - seemed less relevant

## ***Feedback from Academic Review (3 institutions)***

- General feedback similar to that picked up by students in terms of content, recall, etc.
- There was some suggestion that the content (esp MCQs) was focused on the early stages of degree, rather than final years.
- Some felt that assessment covers only a small amount of total course content – will this allow for valid comparisons between institutions?
- Other more specific item-based feedback taken into the specific item review process.