

Smart Casual: Customisable email to topic co-ordinators

Dear **Professional development/Topic/Subject/Unit** Co-ordinator,

I am writing to introduce you to the [Smart Casual project](#), which provides free, specialist professional development for sessional teachers in Law.

Sessional teachers form a crucial and growing part of the workforce of law schools both in Australia and internationally. However, this large body of teaching staff has much less dependable access to professional development than permanently employed, full-time staff, even if they have little teaching experience or training. Frequently, sessional teachers bring their expertise and contacts as practitioners and/or researchers to the role. However, these additional commitments can make it difficult to attend on-campus professional development. In addition, law teachers need skills that the generic teaching support offered in many universities does not address.

Smart Casual has created time-efficient, research-informed online professional development for Australian sessional teachers in law. The Smart Casual online professional development modules are designed by law teachers, for law teachers. They include videos of sessional law teachers talking about their high-quality teaching practices. Each module has been peer reviewed, trialled by sessional law teachers and modified to respond to their feedback. The modules are FREE and readily accessible on the web at <https://smartlawteacher.org/>. Smart Casual is funded by the [Commonwealth Office for Learning and Teaching](#).

The Smart Casual suite comprises modules on:

- Communication and collaboration
- Critical legal thinking
- Engaging students
- Ethics and professional responsibility
- Providing high quality feedback
- Indigenous Australians and the law
- Problem solving
- Reading law
- Wellbeing in law

Each of the Smart Casual modules addresses the crucial issues of:

- Internationalisation
- Digital literacy
- Gender equity
- Diversity

I invite you to use these resources to benefit your sessional staff and their students. I hope you will encourage sessional staff to use them.

I attach an email you can customise and send to sessional teachers under your supervision, and a poster for any shared spaces sessional teachers in your School are likely to access.

Insert a statement of support from the School/Dean.

Insert a statement about how sessional staff will be paid for undertaking professional development and any conditions attached to that payment (for example, a limit on hours of paid professional development per semester, a permission process, or an assessment process).

Please also ensure that sessional teachers under your supervision are aware that Insert a statement about the other forms of support offered to sessional staff by your School (for example, key people to contact about pay or library access or answers to questions about the Learning Management System; a mentoring scheme; an accreditation process; a peer support programme).

Yours sincerely,

Insert your name

Insert your position title