

## **Dealing with megaclasses in an online environment**

Kay Lipson\*

Swinburne Online, Melbourne, Australia, [klipson@swinburneonline.com](mailto:klipson@swinburneonline.com)

There is no doubt that online education is booming internationally. Recent data suggests exponential growth in online courses over recent years, with some of the biggest for-profits in the US reporting enrolments of 400,000 students. At the same time, we have seen the advent of the MOOC, massive open online courses, being offered by high status universities across the world and particularly in the US. There is much hype around this new online delivery model, and its potential to revolutionise higher education, but lack of clarity around the underpinning business model. Swinburne Online is a recently established public private partnership established to run degree programs fully online, the first venture of this kind in Australia. Swinburne Online is 50% owned by Swinburne University of Technology, and 50% owned by SEEK. Swinburne University is a research intensive university in Melbourne, Australia, recently named in the world's top 400 universities in the Academic Ranking of World Universities. SEEK is an entrepreneurial online business, which owns leading online employment market places across Australia, New Zealand, China, Asia, Brazil and Mexico. This presentation will describe how Swinburne Online is meeting the pedagogical challenge of teaching statistics to large cohorts of students online.

Keywords: Online pedagogy, MOOC