So doing sessional tutoring work is pretty amazing: I personally feel that you’re changing people’s lives by being a role model, by providing messages of hope, and sometimes just by being that friendly face that’s approachable, that they can come talk to in a new environment. Sometimes I’ve found that you might even know a student for a whole year before they actually come to you and tell you what was going on in their life, and you just think, “Wow, I had no idea. You’re incredibly resilient. Gee, you’re proactive. Gee, you’re doing amazing things in your life, and thank you for sharing with me. That is such a privilege that I’m now able to help you so that we can restructure your university experience to better suit you and to help you achieve your degree.”

So that in, it’s oh, intrinsic rewards are massive: as a teacher you get such a sense of excitement out of seeing the material come alive in human dynamic ways in every single classroom environment. I learn just as much from my students as they learn from me sometimes, and you can draw out from them what the material means to them and how they want to use that to change their worlds in some way. Especially working in the field of Health, working with the future of Australia’s mental health professionals, helping them to become empowered people, helping them to become sensitive to the needs of others and to work from non-judgemental frameworks, and to think that they’re going to go off into the world and do wonderful things, that’s amazing and just such a privilege to be involved in that work.

So another really rewarding area as a sessional staff member is your skill development: there is so much opportunity to have your skills as a teacher, as a group facilitator, as a counsellor you’re using all those incredible skills. So, and there’s a lot of opportunity to learn from your peers, to learn from the other tutors, to learn from the head tutors, to learn from the course convenors. And if you have the desire to better improve your facilitation skills you can do that each week: you can try out different learning experiences, different ways to structure your class, different ways to present yourself, and those skills will carry you through for the rest of your career. You’ll get plenty of experience and plenty of practice: it doesn’t hurt at all to be comfortable talking in front of a classroom of people. That will set you off no matter where you go.

[recording ends]