



# Local MOOCs record high completion rate

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The first massive open online courses (MOOCs) offered by Open Universities Australia recorded a completion rate of more than 25 per cent, far better than outcomes achieved by major providers such as Coursera and edX.

OUA completed its first MOOC courses, marketed as Open2Study, one week ago, and on Friday said the completion rate for enrolled students was 25.9 per cent.

Open2Study is the first foray into free online study for Open Universities. Its main business is to provide online access to accredited courses from 20 universities and TAFEs which students pay fees to enrol in.

In its initial round of courses, Open2Study offered 10 subjects, each four weeks long, which were pitched at what was judged as areas of key interest to people.

Open Universities says 12,000 students enrolled in more than 20,000 subjects, and 25.9 per cent of enrolled students completed a course. The completion rate of students who actu-

ally started study was 50.8 per cent, as many students enrolled didn't study.

Although comprehensive completion data for MOOC courses is not available, one widely quoted study found the completion rate for most MOOCs was under 10 per cent.

Open Universities chief executive officer **Paul Wappett** said "the results we're seeing at Open2Study prove we are delivering an outstanding experience compared to other free online platforms".

The most popular courses in the first round were principles of project management; food, nutrition and your health; and financial planning.

The next round starts on Monday with four courses added.

By the end of the year Open2Study plans to have 40 to 50 free courses online.

Mr Wappett believed other reasons for its success included course quality, high production values, intuitive learning environment and social learning elements.