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## ATEA 2016

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Steven Kickbusch

***What are beginning teachers looking for online? The TeachConnect story (and what can be learnt from it).***

TeachConnect is a platform to support pre-service secondary maths and science teachers through their professional experience and into the profession. It has been developed over four years as a design-based research project and now has over 500 users across Queensland (Kelly, Clará, Kehrwald, & Danaher, 2016).

This presentation aims to share everything that we have discovered during this journey. It contributes a discussion of :

- the unrealised potential for online support for pre-service and early career teachers (to augment rather than replace existing support)
- the design principles for online communities of teachers that have been developed through analysis of existing platforms and multiple iterations of TeachConnect development with input from participants
- the design of the engagement strategy for involving all stakeholders within the state education system, with a particular focus upon the development of the online group and peer mentoring program
- real-world impacts and discussion of future steps

Finally, the presentation describes how the open-source platform could be used in other states. The work can be understood as a contribution to the vision of an online platform that is as useful as possible for pre-service and early career teachers. In summary, we believe this will continue to be achieved through: (i) widespread collaboration between universities, government and accreditation bodies; (ii) ongoing participant-led design and redesign; and (iii) convergence, for maximising benefits of a large community whilst retaining the benefits of enclosed spaces where deep reflection can occur.

## References

Kelly, N., Clará, M., Kehrwald, B., & Danaher, P. (2016). *Online Learning Networks for Pre-service and Early Career Teachers*. UK: Palgrave Pivot.