Informal Pastoral Support for PGR Students
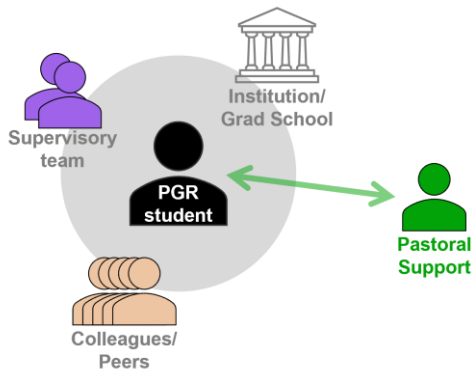
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- Postgraduate Research Students (PGR) typically rely on their supervisor (or supervisory team) for most of their support through their institution, including pastoral support (which is common for UG students*)
- Such pastoral support may not be possible (e.g. inability, unwillingness from either party, etc)
- Other institutional support networks may be present (e.g. research groups, graduate schools*, etc), but are inconsistent in availability (even within a single institution) and rely on personal initiative to engage with

- Our proposal: assigning each PGR student to a contact point (member of staff), who is not involved with supervision, who can provide pastoral support at the students' request
  - Decoupling research progression from pastoral issues
  - Providing an independent reference point for the student who can act as mediator, source of information, etc
- Many open questions: what can we do to maximise effectiveness of this scheme? Is there best practice?

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