



CONFERENCE PROGRAM

34th National Vocational Education and Training Research Conference

Presented by



Supported by



Australian Government
Department of Employment
and Workplace Relations

PROGRAM	
13:00	Registration open, arrival tea and coffee: Ground level, Robina Events Centre, 94 Laver Drive, Robina
	Data centre open: speak with an NCVER data expert, one-on-one. <i>By appointment only - please book at the reception desk.</i>
PRE-CONFERENCE PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOPS	
	WORKSHOP 1 - COMPUTER LAB 201
13:30	<p>KNOWLEDGE IS POWER: USING VOCEDPLUS TO FIND RELEVANT RESEARCH AND RESOURCES</p> <p>The National Centre for Vocational Education Research (NCVER) produces VOCEDplus – a free international research database for tertiary education, with a strong emphasis on vocational education and training (VET). VOCEDplus contains more than 100,000 publications, including journal articles, reports, books, conference papers, theses, and more. But how can you make the most of this rich resource?</p> <p>This interactive workshop will take you on a tour of the VOCEDplus website and demonstrate how to find the best information to meet your needs. You will learn how to easily and effectively search the database and use key resources including the Pod Network and the VET Practitioner Resource.</p> <p>The Pod Network provides a range of curated material through 13 Pods on broad topics such as Apprenticeships and traineeships, Foundation skills, Student outcomes, and Teaching and learning. There are also 20 Podlets on narrower topics including Disability, Disadvantaged, Indigenous, Migration and skills, Online learning, and Skill needs.</p> <p>By attending this workshop you'll improve your research skills and gain valuable insights into how VOCEDplus can assist with your current role or studies, enhance your practice and support your professional development.</p> <p><i>Tracy Gamlin, NCVER</i></p>
	WORKSHOP 2 - COMPUTER LAB 301
	<p>DATA INSIGHTS FROM THE VOICES OF STUDENTS AND EMPLOYERS: LEARN HOW TO EXTRACT AND ANALYSE SURVEY DATA</p> <p>Are you interested in unpacking NCVER survey data to further understand students' and employers' experiences with training but don't know where to start? Then join us for an interactive and hands-on workshop presented by NCVER's team of surveys data specialists.</p> <p>Around a quarter of a million students annually respond to the National Student Outcomes Survey. Biennially over 5,000 employers complete the Survey of Employers' Use and Views of the VET System. Whilst the data are collected and often reported at a national level, data users can explore the diverse experiences from training at various levels from specific industries to student equity groups.</p> <p>This interactive workshop will include an introduction to the National VET Surveys and, focusing on the VET student outcomes data, will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• a demonstration on how to access, interrogate and use NCVER's statistical and data products• an opportunity to learn how to extract and build the data you need to conduct your own analysis• an overview of how to interpret survey data. <p>By the end of the workshop, you will be able to select the best NCVER tool to access, interrogate and build your own data tables, gaining greater understanding on how to use this dataset to guide your own work.</p> <p><i>Davinia Blomberg and Cameron Forrest, NCVER</i></p>
15:00	AFTERNOON TEA
	WORKSHOP 3 - ROOM 208/209
15:30	<p>YOUR VOICE MATTERS: ADDRESSING VET WORKFORCE RESEARCH AND DATA GAPS</p> <p>The recent VET Workforce Blueprint found that there is an incomplete understanding of roles in the VET workforce, that the data that exists lacks sophistication and precision, and that there are workforce challenges that need further research.</p> <p>This interactive workshop will begin with a brief summary of Job Skills Australia's current research and development work that support the VET Workforce Blueprint foundational national actions, 'Building a Better Understanding of the VET Workforce'.</p> <p>Participants will then focus on a generative discussion to help identify research and data gaps, co-designing options for further research to learn what areas they feel need to be better understood about both qualitative and quantitative data, and the wider VET workforce so the sector can continue to grow and become a more inclusive space.</p> <p>The session warmly welcomes practitioners, policy makers, researchers and VET sector experts to engage in this early opportunity which will be part of a much broader public consultation on how to address the data and research challenges faced by the VET workforce in order to realise the opportunities of quality data to better understand the workforce. This work will be contextualised by work undertaken by DEWR and JSA to understand key design principles for First Nations people working in VET and will draw on JSA's draft Gender Framework which aims to embed and build capability in gendered and intersectional analysis.</p> <p><i>Elizabeth Knight and Leigh Harlow, Jobs and Skills Australia</i></p>
	WORKSHOP 4 - COMPUTER LAB 201
	<p>EXPLORING DIVERSE YOUTH TRANSITIONS IN AUSTRALIA: INSIGHTS FROM THE LONGITUDINAL SURVEYS OF AUSTRALIAN YOUTH (LSAY)</p> <p>For three decades, the Longitudinal Surveys of Australian Youth (LSAY) has provided valuable insights into the diverse pathways young people take from school to further education, training, and employment. Since 1995, the survey program has interviewed over 60,000 participants, offering rich data on the experiences of young Australians, including those from varied socioeconomic, cultural, and geographic backgrounds.</p> <p>As the VET sector adapts to meet the needs of an increasingly diverse student population, LSAY offers an evidence base to understand how different groups of learners navigate their transitions from school to further study and work. The survey collects information beyond administrative data, including attitudes towards school, barriers to study and work, life satisfaction, and soft skills—offering a richer understanding of the challenges and opportunities young people face.</p> <p>This workshop will introduce participants to LSAY and demonstrate tools that enable quick access to data insights. Attendees will engage in hands-on exercises, exploring how LSAY data can inform policy and practice to better support a diverse range of students and their pathways. Led by members of the LSAY team from NCVER, the session will combine presentations, demonstrations, and interactive activities.</p> <p><i>Ronnie Semo, NCVER</i></p>
17:00	WORKSHOPS CONCLUDE
	Data centre closed
17:15	WELCOME RECEPTION - Sponsored by Charles Sturt University Ground level, Robina Events Centre, 94 Laver Drive, Robina.
19:00	WELCOME RECEPTION CONCLUDES

THURSDAY 10 JULY 2025

CONFERENCE PROGRAM - DAY 1				
8:00	Registration, arrival tea and coffee: Ground level, Robina Events Centre, 94 Laver Drive, Robina		9:30	Ministerial address: Hon Andrew Giles MP, Minister for Skills and Training (pre-recorded)
9:00	Conference starts: Level 4, Robina Events Centre		9:45	Guest speaker - Commissioner Barney Glover, Jobs and Skills Australia
9:05	Welcome to Country		10:00	OPENING KEYNOTE ADDRESS Sponsored by the Independent Tertiary Education Council Australia (ITECA) Isaiah Dawe, Founder and CEO, ID. Know Yourself
9:10	NCVER welcome: John King, Managing Director, NCVER			
9:20	Co-host welcome: Karen Dickinson, General Manager, Gold Coast region, TAFE Queensland			
10:45	Data centre open: speak with an NCVER data expert, one-on-one. <i>By appointment only - please book at the reception desk.</i>			
10:55	MORNING TEA			
11.15	DISCUSSION PANEL - Sponsored by Construction Skills Queensland Enhancing the voices of VET stakeholders (Level 4, Robina Events Centre)			
CONCURRENT SESSIONS - DAY 1				
12:05	ROOM 204	ROOM 207	ROOM 208 & 209	ROOM 310 & 311
	ENHANCING EMPLOYABILITY OUTCOMES FOR A DIVERSE WORKFORCE	EXPANDING GENDER DIVERSITY AND EQUITY IN VET	INCLUSIVE TRAINING PRACTICES FOR A DIVERSE WORKFORCE	SUPPORTING LEARNERS FROM DIVERSE BACKGROUNDS IN VET
	Putting research in action-based learning: Project Ready VET program Nicky Leitch, CEO Central Ranges Local Learning and Employment Network	Manufacturing women’s participation: barriers to women in the manufacturing industry and potential solutions Maryann Quagliata, Strategic Advisor Manufacturing Industry Skills Alliance	Engaging in conversations: talking with ADHD construction apprentices to improve training design and delivery Andrew Green, Principal Adviser - Learners with Disabilities Building & Construction Industry Training Organisation	Effective student support: enabling the learner journey Dr Upekha Andrahannadi, Research Officer and Dr Tabatha Griffin, Senior Researcher and Team Leader NCVER
12:45	LUNCH BREAK			
13:45	AMPLIFYING THE VOICES AND PERSPECTIVES OF FIRST NATIONS PEOPLE IN VET	ENHANCING EMPLOYABILITY OUTCOMES FOR A DIVERSE WORKFORCE	INCLUSIVE APPROACHES TO VET DESIGN AND DELIVERY	STRENGTHENING PATHWAYS INTO VET AND BEYOND FOR A DIVERSE RANGE OF LEARNERS
	VET voices of success. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander student experiences Natalie Gardam, Student Doctor of Education Southern Cross University	Social inclusion and sustainability in VET: global stories in textile stewardship Lisa Piller, Principal Lecturer South Metropolitan TAFE	AI-generated assessments: enhancing inclusivity and personalisation in VET assessment design Eve Price, Portfolio Manager ConCOVE	Who benefits from pre-apprenticeships? Joanne Waugh, Senior Research Officer and Melinda Lees, Team Leader, Research & Data Analytics, NCVER
	Amplifying the voices and perspectives of First Nations people in VET Anissa Jones, Indigenous Academic Specialist UNSW	Engaging Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD) adult learners in online learning Yan Zhou, PhD Candidate & Teaching Academic Victoria University	Student voices in Australian VET – future plans for the Student Outcomes Survey Dr Cameron Forrest, Data Analyst NCVER	Revitalising RPL: meeting the needs of diverse learners and professionals through new methods for skills recognition Melinda Brown, General Manager SkillsIQ
15:15	AFTERNOON TEA			
15:45	EXPANDING GENDER DIVERSITY AND EQUITY IN VET	INCLUSIVE APPROACHES TO VET DESIGN AND DELIVERY	SUPPORTING LEARNERS FROM DIVERSE BACKGROUNDS IN VET	INCLUSIVE TRAINING PRACTICES FOR A DIVERSE WORKFORCE
	Breaking barriers: empowering women to excel in construction trades Greg Durkin, Director and Amanda Williams, Principal Advisor for Women Building & Construction Industry Training Organisation	Auslan, Interpreting and Translating Qualification Review project – an inclusive approach Niki Habibis, Manager, Training Promotion and Implementation Public Skills Australia	Amplifying diverse voices: inclusive practices at TAFE Queensland Emma Rice, Senior Advisor, Learning and Teaching and Heidi Gould, Student Support Manager TAFE Queensland	Effective teaching and learning: teacher perspectives on what works best for whom Dr Tabatha Griffin, Senior Researcher and Team Leader NCVER
	Increasing female participation in Automotive Industry Retail, Service and Repair qualifications – a success story Dr Aneeq Sarwar, Senior Manager, Workforce Planning and Policy AusMASA	Putting vocation back in vocational education: supporting learners to create meaningful and sustainable careers Dr Michael Healy, National Career Education Manager myfuture.edu.au	Disengaged First Nations and migrant learners’ experiences with foundation skills courses Bridget Wibrow, Senior Research Officer NCVER	Adapting teaching and learning to meet the needs of diverse VET learners Fran Baxter, Executive Director and Marcela Lapertosa Director of Education, Value Learning
17:00	Data centre closed			
17:10	CONCURRENT SESSIONS CONCLUDE			
18:30	CONFERENCE DINNER - Sponsored by RTOSafe - GUEST SPEAKER: STEVEN BRADBURY, FOUR-TIME OLYMPIAN The Island Gold Coast, 3128 Surfers Paradise, Queensland 4217			
22:00	CONFERENCE DINNER CONCLUDES			

Please note: This program is subject to change

FRIDAY 11 JULY 2025

8:30	Registration open, arrival tea and coffee: Ground level, Robina Events Centre, 94 Laver Drive, Robina				
9:00	Day 2 Welcome: Level 4 , Robina Events Centre				
9:05	KEYNOTE ADDRESS - Sponsored by CAQA Groups John Tucker, CEO, TAFE Queensland (Level 4, Robina Events Centre)				
9:50	MORNING TEA				
CONCURRENT SESSIONS - DAY 2					
10:20	ROOM 204	ROOM 207	ROOM 208 & 209	ROOM 310 & 311	ROOM 309
	INCLUSIVE APPROACHES TO VET DESIGN AND DELIVERY	INCLUSIVE TRAINING PRACTICES FOR A DIVERSE WORKFORCE	STRENGTHENING PATHWAYS INTO VET AND BEYOND FOR A DIVERSE RANGE OF LEARNERS	SUPPORTING LEARNERS FROM DIVERSE BACKGROUNDS IN VET	BUILDING DIGITAL LITERACY FOR A DIVERSE LEARNER BASE
	Student and community voice in rural operations curriculum: an inclusive approach to VET design A/Prof Steven Hodge, Director, Griffith Institute for Educational Research, Griffith University and Dr Reshman Tabassum, Research & People Manager, Skills Insight	Strengthening learner voice in VET: Incorporating diverse experiences for more inclusive training methods and delivery Nurjis Sethi, Senior VET Lecturer and Dr Mehwish Ghulam Ali, PHD Economics RMIT University	Understanding what drives students to pick a particular RTO – a focus on student support services Bridget Wibrow, Senior Research Officer NCVER	Anchors in the chaos: the role of teachers in fostering well-being in VET pathways Liam Frost-Camilleri, Academic Federation University Australia	Digital skills in high demand: what digital skills are being sought by industry and how can they be developed? Dr Caroline Smith, Executive Director Ai Group Centre for Education and Training
11:10	Designing effective engagement strategies to get the right input Dr Justin Brown, Principal Research Fellow Australian Council for Educational Research	Profit before pedagogy: examining the success and failure of private providers in Australia’s Vocational Education and Training (VET) market Dr Rocco Guarnaccia, Head of Vocational Education and Training VETASSESS	Building pathways, not just facilities: what VET can do to support women in trades Rebecca Spicer, Principal Lecturer, Strategic Industry Partnerships TAFE SA	Developing a deeper understanding of foundation skills learner journeys Dr Angus Hughes, Senior Data Analyst and Dr Zhihui Zhang, Data Analyst NCVER	Enhancing digital literacy for diverse VET students: strategies for success Samantha Crowe, Senior Advisor Educator Capability TAFE Queensland
CONCURRENT SESSIONS CONCLUDE					
12:00	LUNCH BREAK				
13:00	OPEN PANEL DISCUSSION Exploring diverse student and teacher experiences in the VET sector (Level 4, Robina Events Centre)				
13:45	CLOSING REMARKS				
14:00	CONFERENCE CONCLUDES				