

QUALITY AND EQUITY IN VOCATIONAL EDUCATION AND TRAINING (VET)



Sheldon Rothman

Australian Council for Educational Research

Dr Sheldon Rothman is a Principal Research Fellow in the Policy Analysis and Program Evaluation research program at ACER. He

has highly developed expertise in the management and analysis of large-scale datasets; experience in the interpretation of results of analyses; and experience in the analysis of data to inform policy. At ACER, Sheldon has concentrated on school-to-work transition. He managed the Longitudinal Surveys of Australian Youth program for six years, and the Victorian On Track post-school destinations survey program for five. He was the lead author of the National report on social equity in VET 2013, which was the first report to provide information on the participation, achievement and transitions from the Australian vocational education and training system for six groups in the Australian population.

David Curtis

Flinders University, South Australia

Dr David Curtis is Associate Professor in Educational Research in the School of Education at Flinders University, South Australia.

He worked in the higher education

sector for 25 years and then worked for 10 years as a consultant and senior research fellow for the Australian Council for Educational Research and the National Centre for Vocational Education Research before returning to higher education.

He is interested in youth transitions, equity, assessment and the measurement of achievement, the development and assessment of generic skills, and in evaluating institutional effectiveness. Much of the work David has undertaken in these areas is policy-focused. He is committed to undertaking analyses that lead to quality information upon which sound policy development can occur.





Lori Hocking

VETnetwork Australia

Lori Hocking is currently Chief Executive Officer of VETnetwork Australia and has been in this role since 2009. VETnetwork Australia is the peak national body representing Vocational Education

and Training (VET) in Schools, with some 1500 members across Australia, including teachers, trainers, VET practitioners and VET administrators.

Lori began her career as a teacher at Taperoo High School in South Australia and subsequently moved into various regional VET advisory roles, supporting schools with VET program implementation. In the early stages of her career, VET was viewed as an 'alternative pathway' for students and young people at risk of disengaging with mainstream education.

Since assuming the role as CEO of VETnetwork Australia, Lori has attempted to expand and develop the organisation to enable it to better address the issues and challenges experienced by VET in Schools professionals, including:

- ▶ *designing high-quality, relevant professional learning for VET in Schools professionals*
- ▶ *building stronger relationships with business and industry that better support Vocational Education and Training*
- ▶ *publicly promoting the value and importance of Vocational Education and Training.*

Dave Tout

Australian Council for Educational Research

Dave Tout is Senior Research Fellow and Manager, Vocational, Adult and Workplace Education, ACER. He has had over 40 years experience in the education sector, with most of those

being in the VET sector, and has worked in a range of programs in schools, TAFEs, community providers, universities, Adult Multicultural Education Services (AMES) and industry. He has had wide experience not only in teaching and training, but also in working at state, national and international levels in research, curriculum, assessment and materials development.

Dave joined ACER in 2008 and has worked on a number of projects, including the online Adult Literacy and Numeracy Assessment Tool for the Tertiary Education Commission in New Zealand; and the development of online literacy and numeracy assessment tools for both disengaged young people and for adults. He also helped manage and implement the mathematical literacy item development component of the 2012 Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA), in which mathematical literacy was the major domain to be assessed. Dave was a member of the Numeracy Expert group for the numeracy components of both the international Adult Literacy and Lifeskills (ALL) survey and the 2011–12 Programme in Assessment of Adult Competencies (PIAAC) surveys.



Abstract

The first National report on social equity in VET, published in 2013, provides baseline data on the participation, achievement and transitions of specific groups of VET learners in the Australian population. In this session, members of the panel will present findings of that report, and findings from other research on the school-to-work transition for specific groups of learners, and efforts to ensure that all participants have access to quality VET programs. The discussant, Lori Hocking, will offer a practitioner's perspective on the issues raised during the session. Panel members will answer questions from the floor.