



AVETRA 2026 CONFERENCE

Schisms and Continuums: Understanding sustainability, change and identity in vocational education

TAFE QLD Southbank Campus, Brisbane

23-24 April 2026

Pre-conference workshops Wednesday 22 April 2026

Pre-conference workshops Wednesday 22 April 2026	
2:00 – 2:30pm	Registration
2:30 – 4:00pm	Preconference Workshop 1 Publishing in the International Journal of Training Research – Some dos and don'ts <i>Facilitated by Dr Selena Chan and Prof. Teresa Schmidt</i>
4:00-5:00pm	Preconference Workshop 2 Comparative Perspectives in Vocational Education Research: An International Dialogue Across Policy, Practice, and Paradigms <i>Facilitated by Dr Sonal Nakar</i>

Day 1 Thursday 23rd April

8.30am	Registration			
9.00am	Open and Welcome from AVETRA President + Welcome to country			
9.15am	Keynote – Don Zoellner <i>Reframing VET's past: what happened when governments declared their policies and then instigated them?</i>			
10.00am	Ministerial address from Minister Andrew Giles			
10.30am	Morning Tea			
	D Block, Level 1, Room 009/025	C Block, Level 1, Room 206	C Block, Plenary Room	G Block, Level 3, Room 007
11.00 – 11:30am	<i>Resilient VET ecosystems for sustainable green skills development; Case studies in Green Hydrogen</i> Sy Aziz Type: Presentation Duration: 30 mins	<i>Successful Experiences: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students' Voices in VET</i> Natalie Gardam Type: Presentation Duration: 30 mins	<i>Artificial Intelligence integration in Vocational Education and Training: A Scoping review</i> Caroline Constant, Natasha Arthars Type: Presentation Duration: 30 mins	<i>The ecology of Australian Vocational Education and Training (VET) system – new perspective on VET reform equilibrium</i> Rocco Guarnaccia Type: Presentation Duration: 30 mins
11.30 – 12:00pm	<i>Towards Industry 5.0: Reframing manufacturing trades, skills and identity in Queensland</i> Quinn Sunderland Type: Presentation Duration: 30 mins	<i>Teacher Preparedness for Supporting Neurodivergent Learners with ADHD and Autism in the Australian Vocational Education and Training (VET) sector</i> Prabh Simran Kaur Type: Presentation Duration: 30 mins	<i>The Digital Mirage: Unmasking Power, Compliance, and Neoliberal Governance in Online VET Professional Development</i> Christopher Ward Type: Presentation Duration: 30 mins	<i>Still Australia's best kept secret? A study of Group Training in Australia</i> Peter Robinson Type: Presentation Duration: 30 mins
12:00 – 12:30pm	<i>Careers education beyond the school gate: lessons from applied research in youth employment</i> Madeleine Morey Type: Presentation Duration: 30 mins	<i>The impact of teacher qualification on Vocational Education and Training schoolteachers' professional identity</i> Karen O'Reilly-Briggs Type: Presentation Duration: 30 mins	<i>Harnessing the power of problems for innovative VET course design</i> Steven Hodge, Natasha Arthars, Mike Keppell Type: Presentation Duration: 30 mins	<i>Researching change in comparative VET research: expanding the conceptual toolkit</i> Jorge Prado Type: Presentation Duration: 30 mins
12:30pm	Lunch / Networking			
1:15 – 2:15pm	<i>Panel session: Apprenticeship Completions: Insights from Data, Industry and Practice</i> Facilitated by Warren Guest, Homes Glen Institute			
2.15 – 2:30pm	<i>From Partnership to Possibility: Australia–India at 40 — Advancing Research Exchange and Regional Leadership in Skills and Training</i> Deepak-Raj Gupta OAM, Australia-India Business Council & Sonal Nakar, Griffith University			
2:30 – 3:00pm	<i>A Tribute to Berwyn Clayton</i>			

3.00pm Afternoon Tea				
	D Block, Level 1, Room 009/025	C Block, Level 1, Room 206	C Block, Plenary Room	G Block, Level 3, Room 007
3.30 – 4:15pm	<p><i>Towards Cultural Safety in VET: Strategies for Implementing Standards for RTOs 2025</i></p> <p>Anissa Jones Type: Workshop Duration: 45 mins</p>	<p><i>Strengthening Learner Voice In VET: Incorporating Diverse Experiences And Identities For A More Inclusive And Future-Ready Skills System</i></p> <p>Dr. Mehwish Ghulam Ali Type: Workshop Duration: 45 mins</p>	<p><i>Shaping TVET Assessment Practices with Generative AI: A Comparative Systematic Review of Implementation Across Developed and Developing Contexts</i></p> <p>Geethani Nair Type: Long Presentation Duration: 45 mins</p>	<p><i>Bridging Policy and Practice: Fostering Sustainable and Inclusive Futures in Australia's VET Sector through Ethical AI Integration and Neurodiversity-Affirming Approaches</i></p> <p>Tyler Payne Type: Long Presentation Duration: 45 mins</p>
4:15 – 5:00pm	<p><i>Pathways on Paper: Structural Barriers to Vertical Mobility in Bangladesh's Diploma in Engineering</i></p> <p>Noor Mohammad Masum Type: Presentation Duration: 30 mins</p>	<p><i>Creating sustainable, innovative, and engaging learning resources with generative artificial intelligence (AI) tools</i></p> <p>Leigh Dwyer Type: Workshop Duration: 45 mins</p>	<p><i>The changing roles of VET educators in the age of AI: From 'guide on the side' to 'conductor of learning'</i></p> <p>Selena Chan Type: Long Presentation Duration: 45 mins</p>	<p><i>Learning about change: the critical relationship between ownership and commitment</i></p> <p>Llandis Barratt-Pugh Type: Presentation Duration: 30 mins</p>
5:00 – 6:15pm	AVETRA Annual General Meeting			
6:30 – 9:00pm	<p>Conference Dinner and Awards The Ship Inn Cnr Stanley & Sidon Streets Southbank Parklands, Brisbane <i>N.B. Tickets for the conference dinner are optional and must be purchased separately when registering.</i></p>			

Day 2 - Friday 24th April

8.30am	Registrations			
9.00am	Keynote – Kira Clarke			
9.45am	Panel session: Impact in VET Applied Research: An Activity Report from TAFE Centres of Excellence <i>Facilitated by Andrew Williamson, Executive Lead, National TAFE Network – Coordination Hub</i>			
10.45am	Morning Tea			
	G Block, Level 3, Room 007	G Block, Level 3, Room 004	C Block, Plenary Room	C Block, Level 1, Room 206
11:15 – 11:45am	<i>Navigating Change: Health Professionals' Learning Practices in Digitalised Work Contexts</i> Sarojini Choi Type: Presentation Duration: 30 mins	<i>Innovative delivery models and frameworks to engage underrepresented cohorts</i> Shae McGregor Type: Presentation Duration: 30 mins	<i>Transforming Vocational Education and Training: Centres of Excellence as Catalysts for Systemic Change</i> Melanie Williams Type: Presentation Duration: 30 mins	<i>Securing Australia's Future: Lessons from Nordic VET Systems for a Sustainable Vocational Education Ecosystem</i> Megan Turner Type: Presentation Duration: 30 mins
11.am - 12:15pm	<i>Learning that works: Exploring work-related training in Australia and the implications for Vocational Education and Training</i> Brett Hall Type: Presentation Duration: 30 mins	<i>Embedding Indigenous Rights and Equity: Applying the ICDPA Framework to the Standards for RTOs 2025</i> Anissa Jones Type: Presentation Duration: 30 mins	<i>Embedding Cybersecurity Across VET Disciplines: International Insights for Future-Ready Teaching and Workforce Capability</i> Faraz Khan Type: Presentation Duration: 30 mins	<i>Addressing Teacher Shortages - Lessons from California and the Bay Area K-16 Collaborative</i> Paul Boys Type: Presentation Duration: 30 mins
12.15 - 12:45pm	<i>Promoting Quality and Sustainable Vocational Education and Lifelong Learning Opportunities for Nepalese youth force</i> Devendra K C Type: Presentation Duration: 30 mins	<i>Embedding Student-Centred Learning in Trades Education: A Continuum of Change for Novice Teachers</i> Rhiannon McNamara Type: Presentation Duration: 30 mins	<i>Designing Sustainable Student Wellbeing Systems for Retention and Success in Vocational Education and Training</i> Sakshi Kaushal Type: Presentation Duration: 30 mins	<i>VET Teacher Institutional Funds of Identity</i> Craig Butler Type: Presentation Duration: 30 mins
12.45pm	Lunch			

	G Block, Level 3, Room 007	G Block, Level 3, Room 004	C Block, Plenary Room	C Block, Level 1, Room 206
1.30 - 2:00pm	<i>Hybrid Identities in Vocational Education and Training: The Case of International Baccalaureate Career-related Programme Learners in Senior Secondary Education</i> Craig Poole Type: Presentation Duration: 30 mins	<i>Old Tensions, New Perspectives: Bridging the Gap Between Cabin Crew Training and Becoming Cabin Crew</i> Maria F. Larrea Type: Presentation Duration: 30 mins	<i>Student Use of Generative AI in Online Vocational Education and Training (VET) in the School of Business: Insights for Teaching, Assessment, and Academic Integrity</i> Kalpana Narayanan Type: Presentation Duration: 30 mins	<i>If it cannot be seen, it does not count: researching the churn of VET products</i> Don Zoellner Type: Presentation Duration: 30 mins
2.00 - 2:30pm	<i>Leading the collaborative development of assessment through action research</i> Susanne Francisco Type: Presentation Duration: 30 mins	<i>Qualified but Not Safe: Psychosocial safety and the limits of Vocational Education and Training</i> Kylie Taffard Type: Presentation Duration: 30 mins	<i>Navigating the AI Revolution with an Inclusive Twist: Strategies for Ethical Integration in Australia's VET Sector</i> Tyler Payne Type: Presentation Duration: 30 mins	<i>Learning From Tradition to Teach Tomorrow: Safeguarding Australian Upholstery Through VET and Equipping the Industry for a Circular Future</i> Candace van der Krogt Type: Presentation Duration: 30 mins
2.30pm	Afternoon Tea / Networking			
3:00pm – 4:00pm	Panel session: Workforce Needs and Skills Priorities: A Cross-Sector Perspective			
4:00pm	Conference Close			