



# 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

2:00 – 2:30pm	Registration
2:30 – 4:00pm	<p><b>Preconference Workshop 1</b>  <i>C Block, Level 2, Plenary Room</i></p> <p><b>Publishing in the <a href="#">International Journal of Training Research</a> – Some dos and don'ts</b>  <i>Facilitated by Dr Selena Chan and Prof. Teresa Schmidt</i></p>
4:00-5:00pm	<p><b>Preconference Workshop 2</b>  <i>C Block, Level 2, Plenary Room</i></p> <p><b>Comparative Perspectives in Vocational Education Research: An International Dialogue Across Policy, Practice, and Paradigms</b>  <i>Facilitated by Dr Sonal Nakar</i></p>

## Day 1 Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> April

8.30am	Registration - C Block, Level 2, Restaurant 66 on Ernest			
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 <i>Minister Andrew Giles, Minister for Skills and Training</i>			
10:15am	Platinum sponsor address <i>Craig Robertson, Chief Executive Officer, Victorian Skills Authority</i>			
<b>10.30am</b>	<b>Morning Tea (C Block, Level 2, Restaurant)</b>			
	<i>D Block, Level 1, Room 009/025</i>	<i>C Block, Level 1, Room 206</i>	<i>C Block, Level 2, Plenary Room</i>	<i>C Block, Level 2, Room 208</i>
11.00 – 11:30am	<i>Resilient VET ecosystems for sustainable green skills development; Case studies in Green Hydrogen</i> <b>Sy Aziz</b> Type: Presentation   Duration: 30 mins	<i>Successful Experiences: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students' Voices in VET</i> <b>Natalie Gardam</b> Type: Presentation   Duration: 30 mins	<i>Artificial Intelligence integration in Vocational Education and Training: A Scoping review</i> <b>Caroline Constant, Natasha Arthars</b> Type: Presentation   Duration: 30 mins	<i>The ecology of Australian Vocational Education and Training (VET) system – new perspective on VET reform equilibrium</i> <b>Rocco Guarnaccia</b> Type: Presentation   Duration: 30 mins
11.30 – 12:00pm	<i>Towards Industry 5.0: Reframing manufacturing trades, skills and identity in Queensland</i> <b>Quinn Sunderland</b> 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> <b>Prabh Simran Kaur</b> Type: Presentation   Duration: 30 mins	<i>The Digital Mirage: Unmasking Power, Compliance, and Neoliberal Governance in Online VET Professional Development</i> <b>Christopher Ward</b> Type: Presentation   Duration: 30 mins	<i>Still Australia's best kept secret? A study of Group Training in Australia</i> <b>Peter Robinson</b> Type: Presentation   Duration: 30 mins
12:00 – 12:30pm	<i>Careers education beyond the school gate: lessons from applied research in youth employment</i> <b>Madeleine Morey</b> Type: Presentation   Duration: 30 mins	<i>The impact of teacher qualification on Vocational Education and Training schoolteachers' professional identity</i> <b>Karen O'Reilly-Briggs</b> Type: Presentation   Duration: 30 mins	<i>Harnessing the power of problems for innovative VET course design</i> <b>Steven Hodge, Natasha Arthars, Mike Keppell</b> Type: Presentation   Duration: 30 mins	<i>Researching change in comparative VET research: expanding the conceptual toolkit</i> <b>Jorge Prado</b> Type: Presentation   Duration: 30 mins
<b>12:30pm</b>	<b>Lunch / Networking (C Block, Level 2, Restaurant)</b>			

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	C Block, Level 2, Plenary Room			
1:15 – 2:15pm	Panel session: <i>Apprenticeship Completions: Insights from Data, Industry and Practice</i> Facilitated by Warren Guest, Homes Glen Institute			
2:15 – 2:30pm	From Partnership to Possibility: Australia–India at 40 — Advancing Research Exchange and Regional Leadership in Skills and Training Deepak-Raj Gupta OAM, Australia-India Business Council & Sonal Nakar, Griffith University			
2:30 – 3:00pm	A Tribute to Berwyn Clayton			
3.00pm	<b>Afternoon Tea (C Block, Level 2, Restaurant)</b>			
	D Block, Level 1, Room 009/025	C Block, Level 1, Room 206	C Block, Level 2, Plenary Room	C Block, Level 2, Room 208
3:30 – 4:15pm	<i>Towards Cultural Safety in VET: Strategies for Implementing Standards for RTOs 2025</i> <b>Anissa Jones</b> Type: Workshop   Duration: 45 mins	<i>Strengthening Learner Voice In VET: Incorporating Diverse Experiences And Identities For A More Inclusive And Future-Ready Skills System</i> <b>Dr. Mehwish Ghulam Ali</b> Type: Workshop   Duration: 45 mins	<i>Shaping TVET Assessment Practices with Generative AI: A Comparative Systematic Review of Implementation Across Developed and Developing Contexts</i> <b>Geethani Nair</b> Type: Long Presentation   Duration: 45 mins	<i>Bridging Policy and Practice: Fostering Sustainable and Inclusive Futures in Australia's VET Sector through Ethical AI Integration and Neurodiversity-Affirming Approaches</i> <b>Tyler Payne</b> Type: Long Presentation   Duration: 45 mins
4:15 – 5:00pm	<i>Pathways on Paper: Structural Barriers to Vertical Mobility in Bangladesh's Diploma in Engineering</i> <b>Noor Mohammad Masum</b> Type: Presentation   Duration: 30 mins	<i>Creating sustainable, innovative, and engaging learning resources with generative artificial intelligence (AI) tools</i> <b>Leigh Dwyer</b> Type: Workshop   Duration: 45 mins	<i>The changing roles of VET educators in the age of AI: From 'guide on the side' to 'conductor of learning'</i> <b>Selena Chan</b> Type: Long Presentation   Duration: 45 mins	<i>Learning about change: the critical relationship between ownership and commitment</i> <b>Llandis Barratt-Pugh</b> Type: Presentation   Duration: 30 mins
5:00 – 6:15pm	<b>AVETRA Annual General Meeting</b> C Block, Level 2, Plenary Room & Online (Zoom)			
6:30 – 9:00pm	<b>Conference Dinner and Awards</b> 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>			

**Day 2 - Friday 24<sup>th</sup> April**

8.30am	Registration - C Block, Level 2, Restaurant 66 on Ernest			
9.00am	Keynote – Kira Clarke <i>Equity and inclusion in VET: Strengthening policy, practice and inclusive productivity</i>			
9.45am	<b>Panel session: Impact in VET Applied Research: An Activity Report from TAFE Centres of Excellence</b> <i>Facilitated by Andrew Williamson, Executive Lead, National TAFE Network – Coordination Hub</i>			
10.45am	<b>Morning Tea (C Block, Level 2, Restaurant)</b>			
	C Block, Level 2, Room 208	C Block, Level 3, Room 312	C Block, Level 2, Plenary Room	C Block, Level 3, Room 313
11:15 – 11:45am	<i>Navigating Change: Health Professionals' Learning Practices in Digitalised Work Contexts</i> <b>Sarojni Choy</b> Type: Presentation   Duration: 30 mins	<i>Innovative delivery models and frameworks to engage underrepresented cohorts</i> <b>Shae McGregor</b> Type: Presentation   Duration: 30 mins	<i>Transforming Vocational Education and Training: Centres of Excellence as Catalysts for Systemic Change</i> <b>Melanie Williams</b> Type: Presentation   Duration: 30 mins	<i>Securing Australia's Future: Lessons from Nordic VET Systems for a Sustainable Vocational Education Ecosystem</i> <b>Megan Turner</b> Type: Presentation   Duration: 30 mins
11.45am - 12:15pm	<i>Learning that works: Exploring work-related training in Australia and the implications for Vocational Education and Training</i> <b>Brett Hall</b> Type: Presentation   Duration: 30 mins	<i>Embedding Indigenous Rights and Equity: Applying the ICDPA Framework to the Standards for RTOs 2025</i> <b>Anissa Jones</b> Type: Presentation   Duration: 30 mins	<i>Embedding Cybersecurity Across VET Disciplines: International Insights for Future-Ready Teaching and Workforce Capability</i> <b>Faraz Khan</b> Type: Presentation   Duration: 30 mins	<i>Addressing Teacher Shortages - Lessons from California and the Bay Area K-16 Collaborative</i> <b>Paul Boys</b> 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> <b>Devendra K C</b> Type: Presentation   Duration: 30 mins	<i>Embedding Student-Centred Learning in Trades Education: A Continuum of Change for Novice Teachers</i> <b>Rhiannon McNamara</b> Type: Presentation   Duration: 30 mins	<i>Designing Sustainable Student Wellbeing Systems for Retention and Success in Vocational Education and Training</i> <b>Sakshi Kaushal</b> Type: Presentation   Duration: 30 mins	<i>VET Teacher Institutional Funds of Identity</i> <b>Craig Butler</b> Type: Presentation   Duration: 30 mins
12.45pm	<b>Lunch (C Block, Level 2, Restaurant)</b>			

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	<i>C Block, Level 2, Room 208</i>	<i>C Block, Level 3, Room 312</i>	<i>C Block, Level 2, Plenary Room</i>	<i>C Block, Level 3, Room 313</i>
1.30 - 2:00pm	<p><i>Hybrid Identities in Vocational Education and Training: The Case of International Baccalaureate Career-related Programme Learners in Senior Secondary Education</i> <b>Craig Poole</b> Type: Presentation   Duration: 30 mins</p>	<p><i>Old Tensions, New Perspectives: Bridging the Gap Between Cabin Crew Training and Becoming Cabin Crew</i> <b>Maria F. Larrea</b> Type: Presentation   Duration: 30 mins</p>	<p><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> <b>Kalpana Narayanan</b> Type: Presentation   Duration: 30 mins</p>	<p><i>If it cannot be seen, it does not count: researching the churn of VET products</i> <b>Don Zoellner and Warran Guest</b> Type: Presentation   Duration: 30 mins</p>
2.00 - 2:30pm	<p><i>Leading the collaborative development of assessment through action research</i> <b>Susanne Francisco</b> Type: Presentation   Duration: 30 mins</p>	<p><i>Qualified but Not Safe: Psychosocial safety and the limits of Vocational Education and Training</i> <b>Kylie Taffard and Suzette Dyer</b> Type: Presentation   Duration: 30 mins</p>	<p><i>Navigating the AI Revolution with an Inclusive Twist: Strategies for Ethical Integration in Australia's VET Sector</i> <b>Tyler Payne</b> Type: Presentation   Duration: 30 mins</p>	<p><i>Learning From Tradition to Teach Tomorrow: Safeguarding Australian Upholstery Through VET and Equipping the Industry for a Circular Future</i> <b>Candace van der Krogt</b> Type: Presentation   Duration: 30 mins</p>
	<i>C Block, Level 2, Plenary Room</i>			
2:30 – 3:15pm	<p><b>Panel session: Workforce Needs and Skills Priorities: A Cross-Sector Perspective</b> <i>Facilitated by Natasha Arthars</i></p>			
3:15 – 3:20pm	<b>Conference close</b>			
<b>3.20pm</b>	<b>Afternoon Tea / Networking (C Block, Level 2, Restaurant)</b>			