

Contributions of VET to regional communities

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This paper discusses the contributions that vocational education and training makes to social and economic needs in regional communities using data from seven regions studied in the CRLRA project 'The Role of VET in Regional Communities'.

Contributions are grouped into two categories: VET's contributions in terms of capacity-building outcomes for individuals and communities, and more 'tangible' outcomes, in relation to employment and community activity. VET helps build capacity within communities in four main areas: skill acquisition, confidence building, networking and support, and job readiness. These capacities are drawn on as the more tangible outcomes are realised.

The paper examines some of the factors which influence the quality and extent of these contributions in order to determine how effectively vocational education and training meets the needs of the regional communities. Those factors that influence VET contributions at the individual/community level fall within four main areas: leadership, individual and community perception of VET, participation enhancers and inhibitors, and provision enhancers and inhibitors. The extent to which each influences the contributions of VET and the type of influence exerted (that is, whether positive or negative), varies between individuals, communities and sites.

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