

## **Reporting on patterns of local participation in VET: findings from a study of Melbourne postcodes**

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Sophisticated mapping software has been the basis for developing new applications of census data mapping that can be applied to the analysis of the participation of local and regional populations in TAFE and other sectors of the VET system. This paper reports further findings from the author's ongoing study of trends in patterns of local VET participation in urban postcodes which deploy this mapping technology and use AVETMISS statistics. The research emerges from a critique of VET policy as neglecting the 'community' dimension of equity in VET and an assertion that research should attempt to uncover the nature of the socio-economic disadvantage as it found concentrated in localities and regions.

The paper reports on findings from a study of ACE and TAFE participation in Melbourne postcodes conducted as part of the work of the Research Centre for Vocational Education and Training supported by ANTA's national key centre program in 1999 and assisted by access to statistics from the Office of Training and Further Education. This work extended the research to a cross-sectoral comparison of participation, where interesting questions arise as to the effects of the generally different configuration of ACE and TAFE providers in Victoria compared to NSW. The earlier NSW studies showed that TAFE participation rates of the 'target equity groups' are highest in the postcodes where members of these groups tend to reside, such as south-western Sydney. The relationship of this ongoing work is discussed in relation to a current NREC project on provider equity strategies and work planned for the coming year.

**Conference theme:** Research and technology, using technology in research

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