

# **Two faces have I – knowledge in the 'mixed sector' vocational curriculum**

Chris Corbel

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# The “mixed sector”

- TAFEs are offering associate and bachelor degrees
- A global (anglophone) trend in response to knowledge economy educational policies
- Access for those previously unable to enter higher education
- Access *to...?*

# “Knowledge and skills”

- Skills, often generic work- as well as job- related
- Immediately relevant and applicable knowledge
- Powerful, abstract, disciplinary, emergent knowledge?
- Social realists say the voice of *this* kind of knowledge is missing, especially in the vocational curriculum

# The vocational curriculum “faces both ways”

- The skills face looks towards employability and hence the particular
  - In the vocational field
  - In actual jobs and workplaces
- The knowledge face looks toward further study and hence beyond the workplace the general
- Currently standards-based, outcomes oriented, industry driven
- In VET in Australia we only see the skills face.

## Will the mixed sector vocational curriculum “bring the voice (or the face) of knowledge back in”?

- The incentive and opportunity for TAFEs to go beyond CBT is strong
- but the skills face remains dominant in the mixed sector
- and the resistance of elements of the ORF *and* the PRF, as well as incumbents, is strong...

We'll see....!