



AVETRA

Supporting our Journal

‘The International Journal of Training Research’

The Australian Research Council (ARC) has, at the Government’s request, constructed the ‘Excellence in Research for Australia’ initiative (ERA).

The aim of ERA is to assess the quality of research in Australian Higher Education Institutions. This is being achieved by measuring research outcomes such as papers produced, grant income gained and the impact of research findings against a range of indicators and by expert committee evaluations.

Of specific interest to researchers is the ‘ranking’ of academic journals into A, B and C categories.

This process was begun in 2010. The ARC are now conducting a review of the original rankings. For us in the community of VET research, it is important that the journals that we publish in are respected by the research community and ranked in the A and B levels rather than the C level.

The ARC is currently requesting feedback from all researchers about the ranking of journals until the **4th April**.

How can you contribute to this process?

As a researcher you may wish to make your own comments about specific journals that read or have published in relation to their current ranking. The ARC website provides a detailed list of the ranking of all journals.

As an **AVETRA member** we would ask you to reflect on the quality of our own journal that is currently rated as a B journal and consider making a short response to the ARC to support the AVETRA journal.

We believe that ranking our **The International Journal of Training Research** in the B category is currently a fair assessment of the journal, but we are concerned that this ranking must be supported by the VET research community so that the ranking can be retained, and be used as a base for building the journal and the ranking over the next decade.

We would therefore urge you to spend 15 minutes supporting our current journal ranking by following the process that is detailed below. I have trialed this process and hope that the guidelines work for you.

Llandis Barratt-Pugh

Guidance for AVETRA members wishing to make a contribution to the current ARC review of journal ranking.

The following notes provide a guide to members wishing to make a contribution to the current ARC review of the comparative journal rankings by making comments on specific journals.

We have provided some guide notes to provide a platform for your personal comments.

It would be preferable if each individual customised their own personal submission.

Go to <https://roci.arc.gov.au/>

If the direct link doesn't work, go to http://www.arc.gov.au/era/era_2012/review_of_era10_ranked_outlet_lists.htm and click on the **roci** link in the second paragraph under the three blue boxes. If you are already registered as a member, click LOG ON.

If you are not registered, at the top of the page click "Hello Guest+log in /Register" and click on register.

- a) Input your email address and your selected password
- b) Go to your email account, find the "Thank you for registering" email, and complete your registration (name and contact details) by clicking on the link provided in the email – use ALL the hyperlink code including stream of numbers and letters.

LOG ON with your password - then you will see a "Welcome" page with your name on it. In the yellow box, click on "Follow this link to search for an outlet".

In the "Title" box, type "International Journal of Training Research." Click "Search". *International Journal of Training Research* will appear at the bottom of the page. Click on it.

The subsequent page permits 2 steps:

1. (OPTIONAL) Peak body – we suggest that AVETRA is the most suitable peak body for any journal in the VET research area. *'AVETRA is the peak research body for the field of VET in Australia with more than a decade of discipline activity specifically in this area'*.
2. **ESSENTIAL**: click on "Comment on this outlet" (grey button inside large greeny-yellow box). This takes you to step 1 of the 5-step process.

Please note, it will be easiest if you complete all 5 steps in one sitting. At the end of each step, you need to click 'Forward' before you can progress to the next step. Below is information designed to help you complete the 5 steps.

STEP 1: Self explanatory. *'I have been a VET researcher for 17 years in Australia.'* – leave all other boxes as the default settings.

STEP 2:

TITLE: The International Journal of Training Research

START YEAR: 1985 END YEAR: N/a ISSN: 1488-0220 - leave as default settings

STEP 3: RANKING: B

RANKING EVIDENCE. *The website limits you 1024 characters (including spaces!) or about 11 lines of normal writing. We suggest you cut and paste your submission into a word document first, check that it is less than 1024 characters and then and then paste it into this section. If it is more a red warning will pop up.*

Please make comments **in your own words** – but you may wish to draw on information below.

I have been a VET researcher for

I would like to support the current ranking of the International Journal of Training research for the following reasons.

- High quality of the papers – ‘B’ ranked journal are associated as ‘outlets for PhD students or early career researchers’. In the past five years the majority of IJTR contributors have been leading and established researchers with many at the level of professor/associate professor level. The author quality for this journal is well above the stated criteria for a ‘B’ ranked journal.
- Longevity of journal – the journal was established in 1985 by the TAFE Development Centre and then NCVER before being taken over by AVETRA in 2002. This means that the journal is in the 26th year of publication.
- Editorial board – the editorial board has seven members who are based outside Australia, providing an international focus.
- Publisher change – in the past year the journal has been realigned with a commercial publishing house as part of a stable of journal under the e-content ‘brand’. This has professionalized the journal and extended its international marketing capability.
- International articles – the journal attracts international authors who in the past decade have contributed 22% of the articles to the journal. The journal speaks to an international audience and distributes international concepts to the Australian audience.
- Guest Editors – Dr Peter Kell is the current Editor and Dr Rupert Maclean of the Institute of Education Hong Kong, founding Director of the UNESCO TVET Bonn Germany, will edit a special edition, adding to the international direction of the journal.
- Special and additional editions – The journal is being expanded this year with a special and additional edition focusing on ‘Global Challenges and Possibilities’. Special editions attract a wide international audience. The journal not only collects a direction from authors but also directs the research community through focusing on specific issues and research futures.
- Publication intentions – The journal will move to three volumes a year during the next year if the quality of article submission continues at current rates. There is documented intention to expand the journal.
- Conference as developmental platform – the journal has the advantage of having a relevant national conference that attracts towards 100 refereed papers annually that provides a sound base for the development of conceptualization of research studies presented at the conference.
- National mentoring scheme for VET research capability – AVETRA have initiated a national mentoring scheme to mentor new VET researchers towards their publications. This will ensure a growth of the author base within Australia.

STEP 4: Fields of Research:

The IJTR publishes in the integrated fields of pedagogy, policy and management for further education and organisational training. Often, research focuses on specific disciplines within further education. Currently it is FoR coded 1301 – but the scope of the discipline and the contributions to knowledge are far wider. The following codings represent the educational, discipline and organisational scope of the journal. The ARC are interested in only the first four digit coding.

1301 01 Continuing and Community Education

1301 03 Higher Education

1301 08 Technical, Further and Workplace Education

1301 99 Education systems not elsewhere classified

1302 07 LOTE, ESL and TESOL Curriculum and Pedagogy

1302 08 Mathematics and Numeracy Curriculum and Pedagogy

1302 13 Vocational Education and Training Curriculum and Pedagogy

1303 02 Comparative and Cross-Cultural Education

1303 03 Education Assessment and Evaluation

1303 04 Educational Administration, Management and Leadership

1303 08 Gender, Sexuality and Education

1303 09 Learning Sciences

1303 12 Special Education and Disability

1303 13 Teacher Education and Professional Development of Educators

1402 04 Economics of Education

1503 05 Human Resources Management

1503 12 Organisational Planning and Management

1605 06 Education Policy

STEP 5 Final comments and review.

Here you could consider adapting the following points:

- In contrast to many other disciplines, Australian vocational education and training research commands strong attention on the global platform. With a well established national centre (NCVER) and researcher association (AVETRA) the volume and quality of research, and the research infrastructure are amongst the best in the world. Australian research in this specific sector is significant in world terms and should be represented by a highly ranked journal.
- It is important that such research publishing opportunities are available to VET researchers in Australia to retain their publications in Australian journals.

Submission -When you have finished step 5, click on the ‘**submit**’ button. If there are no problems, you will be returned to the "My Profile" screen which lists all your submissions. At any time, you may revisit any of your previous submissions listed in the "My Profile" screen. If you have not completed all required fields, the system will take you back to step 1 to allow you to review your submission. You can also go back in later to alter your submission and to add other journals that you may wish to comment on.

Thank you for your supporting the AVETRA Journal the International Journal of Training Research.