

PAPER:

***RESEARCH ON FLEXIBLE LEARNING/DELIVERY:
UNDERSTANDING TERMS***

Terry Evans

and

Peter Smith

**Research Institute for Professional and
Vocational Education and Training
Deakin University and Gordon Institute of TAFE**

Abstract:

The authors are undertaking research into a number of aspects of flexible delivery and flexible learning in the Vocational Education and Training and higher education sectors. This research leads the authors to question some of the understandings about the nature and practices of flexible delivery and flexible learning that are held both across and within these sectors. It is clear that there are some similarities of policy and practice, but also some sharp, and some not so sharp, distinctions to be found.

This paper reviews recent literature on flexible delivery and flexible learning, and compares this with current conceptualisations and interpretations in the field as revealed in the authors' research projects. The authors argue a case that researchers of flexible learning and flexible delivery in VET need to be clear about their conceptualisations of flexible learning and flexible delivery which underpin the design, analysis and implementation of their research. Such differences in conceptualisation make the comparison of findings between research projects problematic.