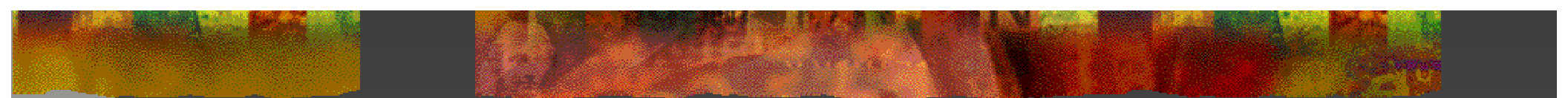





# Living and Working in a Company Town


Jenni Carter

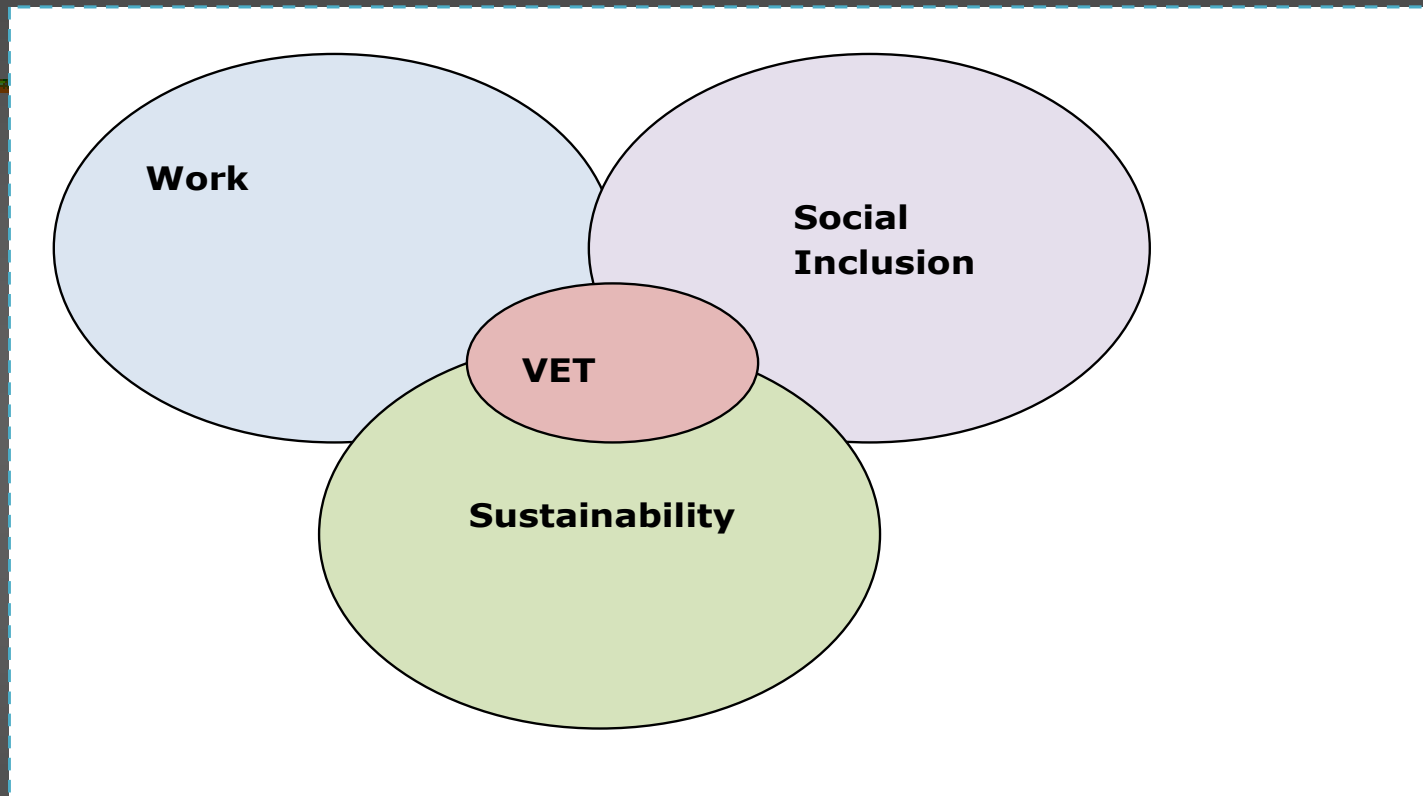
University of South Australia

- 
- Research interests are concerned with a non normative approach to justice
  - Unconditional responsibility to the other
  - Concepts around 'hospitality' and 'friendship'
  - Axiomatic analysis
  
  - Within VET interests in 'work' and ACE
- 



# Social Inclusion / Social Justice / VET

- Potential of VET is more than about opportunities for 'disadvantaged'
  - Has a contribution to strengthening and building ethical and political relations and responsibilities within the complexity of the local / global problematic
- 






## Commonwealth Social Inclusion Priorities and Principles

- Aspirations
- reducing disadvantage
- increasing social, civic and economic participation
- developing a greater voice, combined with greater responsibility

### Approaches

- building on individual and community strengths
  - building partnerships with key stakeholders
  - developing tailored services
  - giving high priority to early intervention and prevention
  - building joined-up services and whole of government(s) solutions
  - using evidence and integrated data to inform policy
  - using locational approaches
  - planning for sustainability
- 

Iron and Steel products



Iron primary production and steel processing



Iron Ore -mining

**Labour as Skills – inputs**  
individual credentials

**VET**  
Mechanism for increasing participation in workforce

**Social Inclusion**  
Increase workforce participation for 'disadvantaged'  
Individualist notions of social inclusion, not equity within neoliberal understandings of competition and choice





# Assemblages within production / commodity chains

- Challenges linear model by focusing on connections (Smith et al 2002, Ong 2006, Tsing 2010)
- Assemblage, dispositif, sheaf, nodes
  - Collection of concepts, forces, practices around an ideal point of 'production'
- Global / local



# 'Company Towns'

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- A 'company town' one that is created, owned and maintained by a company
  - Example – Iron Ore
  - Interesting socially
  - An assemblage of ethical and political forces
  - Some 'auto ethnographic' focus
-





Closed 1989. Photo taken 2008

■ 'Wild West', drinking, male, utes

■ FI/FO camps

■ ...mining towns are not the wildly dysfunctional communities but as - reflected by their conventional suburban designs – surprisingly ordered and tranquil ( Sharma 1983 cited Petkova et al p.13,

■ Red Dirt!





# BHP

## Newman

As the largest town in the East Pilbara, Newman facilities include a large shopping centre, restaurants, sporting clubs, accommodation, medical and hospital facilities and more. There's a strong community spirit in Newman that makes it perfect for families.

## Port Hedland

Established as a service town for cattle grazers in the 1860s, Port Hedland was home to the gold rush population of the 1880s and was expanded when BHP Billiton began shipping iron ore in 1969. Now a thriving town of 15,000, it offers cultural, recreational and shopping facilities as well as national parks and coastal retreats within easy driving reach. The sister township of South Hedland, just 15 kilometres away, is a modern residential centre that increases the number of services offered to local residents.

In both Port Hedland and Newman the site is very close to residential areas, making it a short drive to work. There are regular buses to and from site.

Our fly-in, fly-out sites operate on a nine days on / five days off roster with charter flights form Perth directly to site.

(<http://www.bhpbilliton.com/bb/ourBusinesses/ironOre/workingWithUsBhpBillitonIronOre.jsp>)



# Rio Tinto

## ■ Tom Price


Tom Price is one of the most attractive towns in the Pilbara with tree-lined streets and a relaxed country-town atmosphere.

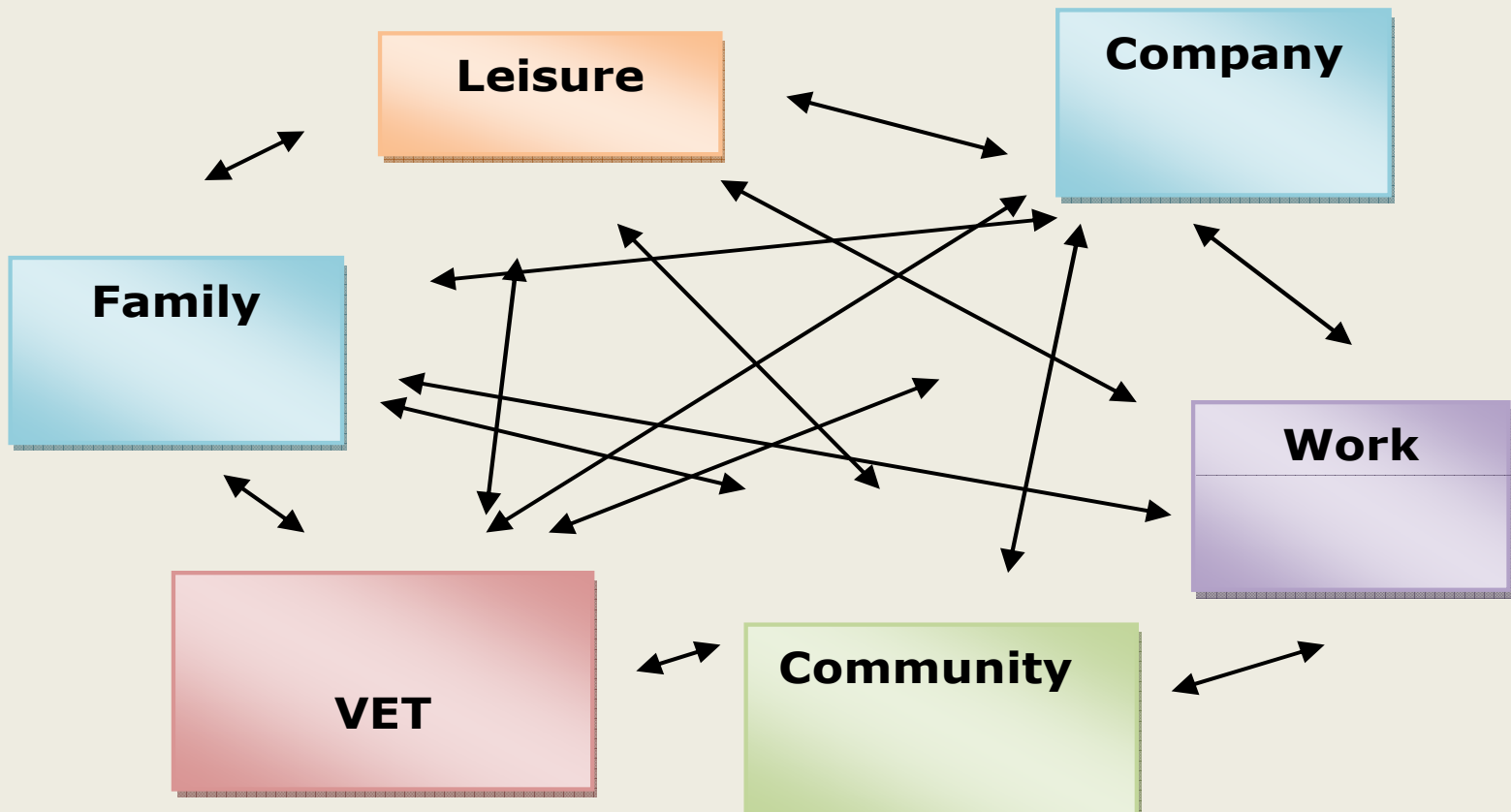
It is named after the Kaiser Steel Vice President and Civil Engineer Thomas Moore Price who developed a favourable study into iron ore mining in the Pilbara - just prior to the discovery of the Mount Tom Price deposit in 1962.

The town is 1564 kilometres north of Perth on the edge of the Hamersley Range, 747 metres above sea level - making it the 'highest' town in Western Australia.

Supporting a population of approximately 3500 people, Tom Price neighbours the Aboriginal communities of Wakathuni, Bellary and Youngaleena.

The town has two playgroups, two primary schools and one senior high school and major tourist attractions are the Karijini National Park, Wittenoom Gorges, Mt Nameless and the Mount Tom Price Mine.





Social Inclusion / Social Justice – political and ethical relations

- The rhythm of the mine is the rhythm of the town
- Work is the common focus of the community
- Hierarchies of the company play out in cultural and social practices
- Isolation and boredom





# Where social inclusion?

- A 'collective' understanding of social justice
  - Skills are shared
  - Within this assemblage VET has potential to produce positive social relations through
    - Developing work and community practices that are just and sustainable
  - What would such an approach to VET look like?
- 