



## Call for Expressions of Interest

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### Research Insight Topic: 'Role of industry in teaching and learning'

*Funding Available: Maximum \$25,000*

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#### **BACKGROUND**

AVETRA has been engaged by the Victorian Skills Authority (VSA) for a two-year programme to commission Australian Vocational Education and Training (VET) researchers to produce 'Research Insights' that translate research findings and evidence to a policy facing output. Several Research Insights will be commissioned in a range of VET topic areas aligned with the strategic objectives and priorities of the vocational education and training system in Victoria.

The partnership between VSA and AVETRA aims to inform policy activity with relevant research evidence, build policy translation capability within the VET research community and build connections between VSA staff and VET researchers. This in turn aims to create opportunities for applied VET researchers to engage directly with policy-makers and influence policy development.

#### **FOCUS OF THIS RESEARCH INSIGHT**

The Victorian Skills Authority (VSA) is seeking to commission a research team / researcher to provide research insights about how the way in which industry is defined and conceptualised impacts the relationship between industry and the vocational education and training (VET) sector.

This project aims to develop a broader understanding of the different ways in which industry can be involved in the development and delivery of vocational education and training, and how these models are shaped by the way in which industry is defined and conceptualised. This will provide an evidence base for the VSA to use when engaging with the sector regarding innovation opportunities in curriculum development, workplace-based and work-integrated learning and building capacity and capability in the VET workforce.

The VSA has a particular interest in understanding international approaches about the involvement of industry in the development and delivery of teaching and learning, and the different roles that industry plays in VET systems internationally. Different models for industry involvement in areas such as skills demand identification, qualifications design and reform, curriculum development and workplace-based and work-integrated learning should be presented, utilising international case studies and / or case studies from other education sectors (e.g. higher education).

This research insights project seeks to:

- Outline the different ways in which industry can be defined and conceptualised across vocational education and training systems.
- Outline the different roles that industry can play in VET systems
- Outline different models for industry involvement in the development and delivery of teaching and learning
- Identify potential models that could be contextualised or implemented in the Australian and / or Victorian system

These objectives develop the general principles of the partnership between the VSA and the Australasian Vocational Education and Training Research Association (AVETRA). These principles include creating opportunities for applied vocational education and training (VET) researchers to engage directly with policy-makers and influence policy development.

### **SUGGESTED APPROACH**

Given the prior research and knowledge in this area, the VSA considers that a review of academic and grey literature would be the most appropriate approach for addressing the research objectives. The VSA remains open to recommendations from AVETRA and or the research team / researcher on alternative approaches.

International case studies or examples from higher education which highlight the different ways in which industry-training relationships are defined, developed and implemented should also be presented. The VSA is particularly interested in approaches that are different to those currently utilised in Victoria and across Australia, and that provide tangible benefits for both students and industry.

### **TIMEFRAMES**

The research insights project should be finalised within 10 weeks of the start date. The activities listed below should be completed by the suggested date. If it is not possible for the research team / researcher to complete a specific activity by the indicated date, the team coordinator should communicate with the contact point, as soon as practicable, to explain the reasons for the delay and propose an alternative date.

<b>Milestone</b>	<b>Date due/completed by</b>
Call for expressions of interest	September 8 <sup>th</sup> , 2023
Close of expressions of interest	September 18 <sup>th</sup> , 2023
Successful applicant notified	September 26 <sup>th</sup> , 2023
Project start date	October 13 <sup>th</sup> , 2023
Interim Research Insight report delivered	November 24 <sup>th</sup> , 2023
Briefing presentation by research team (plus delivery of verbal feedback from VSA)	Early December TBC
Delivery of VSA written feedback (if needed)	1 week after briefing presentation
Final Research Insight paper delivered	December 22 <sup>nd</sup> , 2023
Project completion and acquittal	January 19 <sup>th</sup> , 2024

### **ELIGIBILITY**

To be eligible for submitting an expression of interest all applicants must be:

- A current paid member of AVETRA
- Currently residing in Australia

- An Australia Citizen or permanent resident, or holding valid work permit or visa for employment in Australia

Practitioner and early career researchers are strongly encouraged to apply. Research teams, including researchers at mixed stages of their research career and/or across research contexts and disciplines are encouraged to apply. Any applicants with significant financial or personal relationship with AVETRA, VSA or NCVER should state any conflict of interest within their application and seek advice from AVETRA before applying. AVETRA welcomes enquiries and applications from researchers with a disability who make need and seek reasonable adjustments to enable their applications. Please contact [avetra@avetra.org.au](mailto:avetra@avetra.org.au) to discuss.

The following are not eligible as named researchers on applications:

- Researchers currently employed by government departments (including statutory authorities, VET or tertiary sector regulatory authorities or other government operated research departments)
- Current ISSI Fellows (Former fellows who are 6 months or more past the end of their fellowship are eligible to apply as long as the Research Insight being applied for is not duplicating previous or existing deliverables a part of the fellowship)
- Researchers currently holding Category 1 research grants (including ARC grants, NMRHC grants or commissioned research funds from NCVER)
- Researchers already awarded funding through this scheme are not eligible to be a named chief investigator on a second project within 12 months of completing the first project. Previous named chief investigators may be named as partner investigators on a subsequent application.

## SELECTION CRITERIA

Expression of interest will be selected on the basis of evidence provided to demonstrate the following selection criteria:		Weighting
1	Experience relevant to the project focus and objectives	20%
2	Understanding of the relevance of the topic to VET policy	20%
3	Methodological design for completion of the research insight output	20%
4	A realistic timeline and budget	15%
5	Skills in writing in plain English for stakeholders	15%
6	Effective management and contingency plan	10%

## PREPARING AN EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

Expressions of interest should be prepared using the template below. The following evidence should be attached in support of the application:

- CVs for all named researchers
- A gantt chart of the proposed plan of work for completion of the project
- A project budget.
- The names, contact email addresses, and phone numbers of two **referees** who can speak to the experience of the named lead researcher.
- Two examples of writing by the named lead researcher.

# Expression of Interest Template

## Section 1: Research team and experience relevant to the topic

### 1.1 Lead researcher details

Name of lead researcher	
Organisation/institution	
Email	
Phone	

### 1.2 Additional researcher/s details

Name of additional researcher	
Organisation/institution	
Email	
Phone	

*Add additional tables for any further named researchers*

### 1.3 Researcher/s experience relevant to the project (please outline researcher experience and interest relevant to the project focus and objectives using examples of completed or in progress applied and/or scholarly research work)

*300 word max*

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### 1.4 Attach CVs for all named researchers

### 1.5 Please describe any prior experience of the named researchers in preparing research outputs for non-research audiences

*300 word max*

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### 1.6 Please attach at least two examples of written work by the lead researcher (examples can include research reports, journal articles, conference papers, submissions to Research Today)

## Section 2: Understanding of the topic

**2.1 Provide a statement outlining your understanding of the topic and its relevance to VET policy (references may be included)**

*500 word max*

## Section 3: Methodological design

**3.1 Detail the methodological design for the completion of the research insight, including how evidence will be curated and the analytical approaches that will be used.**

*700 word max*

**3.2 Detail the contribution of the named researcher/s to the completion of the project**

*250 word max*

## Section 4: Timeline and budget

**4.1 Provide a gantt chart timeline for the completion of the project, including the contributions of named researchers (In preparing the project timeline, please note the delivery timeline outlined in the call for expression of interest)**

***Insert gantt chart***

**4.2 Project budget**

Please provide an itemised project budget, inclusive of salary/buy out costs for named researchers, consumables and organisational overheads/shared service costs (In preparing the project budget, please note the maximum budget of \$25,000.)

**Insert budget**

**4.3 Please detail a project management plan, including any approaches to ensuring effective communication between the research team and mechanisms for timely delivery of the final Research Insight**

250 word max

**4.4 Please identify any risks and the steps to mitigate risks** (including those associated with the proposed timeline, researcher availability, changes in organisational/institutional support)

Descriptor	Likelihood	Consequence	Risk Level	Mitigation Strategies
	Likely		High	
	Possible		Medium	
	Not likely		Low	