

## The National VET Research landscape

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This document contains an overview of the current landscape of the organisations related to VET research as in October 2011.

It is a landscape that is continually shifting, specifically due to considerable changes in the governance and quality control of the tertiary sector.

The following sections provide details of the key organisations in the VET landscape.

**1 – Existing AVETRA Memoranda of Understanding.**

**2 - National Research Infrastructure**

**3 - National Bodies - VET Coordination**

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## **1. Existing AVETRA Memoranda of Understanding.**

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AVETRA has established a number of MOU's with related organisations. What is important about these relationships is what the subsequent relationships between the organisations has achieved. Interestingly, negotiations for a MoU with NCVER began in 2007 but were never completed as the contractual relationship for the mentoring program took priority. It may be that what actually matters to AVETRA is the quality of the continued interaction with external bodies and not formal MoUs.

The current draft AVETRA MoU is listed as Appendix 1.

The listing below indicates the form that relationships with partner organisations can take.

1. Reciprocal opportunity to address national conference.
2. Reciprocal action to alert AVETRA to national issues and forums
3. Reciprocal action to provide advice and reference group membership
4. Reciprocal circulation to members of relevant material.
5. Collaborative action on projects to share resources.
6. Reciprocal action to share organisational databases.
7. Reciprocal action to link websites.

AVETRA has established several MoUs over the past decade. They have a currency of three years, and currently there are five active MoUs as follows:

**WAVE:**                    **Women in Adult and Vocational Education**  
WAVE is a feminist organisation interested in policy and practice throughout the VET field. Wave.org.au – current President Elaine Butler - UniSA.

AVETRA contact: regular emails with President 2010

**AARE:**                    **Australian Association for Research in Education**  
AARE has been established for 40 years with broad representation of educational researchers within which there are special interest groups, including one for VET research. AARE.edu.au – current President Jo-Anne Reid CSU.

AVETRA contact: Ros leading VET special interest group 2011

**ACE:**                    **Australian College of Educators**  
ACE represents educationalists across all the sectors in Australia. AustCollEd.au – current President Dr Lyndsay Connors UoS.

AVETRA contact: Liaison on research initiatives with Llandis 2010

**TDC**                    **The TAFE Development Centre (TDC)** provides a range of

continuing professional development programs and services to VET practitioners, leaders and specialist staff within Victoria.  
tafcentre.vic.edu.au – current CEO Ms Denise Stevens

AVETRA contact: Liaison during 2007 conference with Berwyn

## **ALARA**

### **The Action Learning, Action Research Association**

ALARA is a strategic network of people interested in using action research and action learning to generate collaborative learning, research and action to transform workplaces, educational institutes, organisations, communities, and voluntary organisations, and government. Alara.net.au – Ms Donna Alleman Administrative Secretary

### **Annual conference July/September**

AVETRA contact: None

## 2 - National Research Infrastructure

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**NCVER:** **National Centre for Vocational Education Research**  
NCVER is the government funded research centre for VET research in Australia and is based in Adelaide: [ncver.edu.au](http://ncver.edu.au)

**Conference: early July – No Frills**

AVETRA contact – continued relationship with AVETRA's parent body through mentoring contract 2008/11 and now 2011/13.

**ACDE** **The Australian Council of Deans of Education** is the peak association of the deans of faculties and heads of schools of education in Australian universities and other higher education institutions. Faculty and School coursework graduates work in a wide range of workplaces and occupations, not only in formal and informal education settings, but also in the public and private sector more generally. [acde.edu.au](http://acde.edu.au) - Professor Toni Downes

AVETRA contact: Michele Simons is a current member and presented the field of VET research to the Executive.

### **ABS – Australian Bureau of Statistics**

Australia's official statistical organisation, the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) is committed to a better informed Australia. The Bureau encourages all Australians to reflect on the vitally important role that official statistics play in our society. While government use of statistics is of vital importance, it is also true that access to official statistics provides businesses and citizens with a window on the work and performance of government itself. Official statistics show the nature and extent of government activity in every area of public policy, allowing the impact of public policies and actions to be assessed. <http://www.abs.gov.au> - Chief Statistician – Brian Pink.

AVETRA contact: none – only individual researchers seeking clearances.

**AUQA** Australian Universities Quality Agency manages the review of higher education institutions within Australia, completing triannual investigations of quality and quality improvement processes– [www.auqa.edu.au](http://www.auqa.edu.au) - Director David Woodhouse - Australian Quality Forum: Higher Education July.

AVETRA contact: none nationally, with several members involved in University level reviews locally.

**ACER** Australian Council for Educational Research - ACER's mission is to create and promote knowledge and tools that can be used to improve learning across the lifespan. Underlying this mission is the belief in the importance of ongoing, lifelong learning both for the fulfilment of individuals and for the well-being of society, and a commitment to the use of systematic investigation, evaluation and critical reflection in the search for ways to improve learning. As a not-for-profit organisation, independent of government, ACER receives no direct financial support and generates its entire income through contracted research and development projects and through products and services that it develops and distributes: <http://www.acer.edu.au> Chief Executive Officer - Prof Geoff Masters

AVETRA contact - none

**NIEIR** National Institute of Economic and Industry Research. The National Institute of Economic and Industry Research (NIEIR), also known as National Economics, was founded in 1984 as a private economic research, consulting and training group serving clients in the public and private sectors. Clients include many of Australia's largest and most dynamic corporations as well as Federal, State and Local Government. <http://www.nieir.com.au/>

AVETRA contact: none

**ALTC** Australian Learning and Teaching Council. The Australian Learning and Teaching Council is dedicated to improving the student learning experience by supporting quality teaching and practice. They work with eligible higher education institutions, discipline groups and individuals as a collaborative and supportive partner in change, providing access to a network of knowledge, ideas and people. Survived government abolition in 2011: Dr Carol Nicoll PSM <http://www.altc.edu.au>

AVETRA contact: none, individual members only

### **3 - National Bodies - VET Coordination**

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**DEEWR**     **Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations and Tertiary Education Skills**  
The Federal department for VET with a specific minister directing VET policy. Deewr.gov.au. Directives for VET policy come from **COAG and MCTEE** meetings.

Ministers:

*Workforce Development Branch  
Tertiary, Youth and International Department  
Ministerial Council for Tertiary Education and Employment  
National Senior Officials Committee*

AVETRA contact: regular representation at AVETRA conferences.

**TEQSA**     The Tertiary Education Quality Standards Agency is forming as the lead regulatory body for the universities and then after 2013 for all the tertiary sector. CEO is Denise Bradley –  
deewr.gov.au/HigherEducation/Policy/teqsa

AVETRA contact: none

**NQC**     National Quality Council – **will cease in 2012 and become the NSC for VET**. The NQC is a Committee of the Ministerial Council for Tertiary Education and Employment (MCTEE), and oversees quality assurance and ensures national consistency in the application of the Australian Quality Training Framework standards for the audit and registration of training providers. It has specific decision-making powers in relation to the endorsement of Training Packages and other aspects of the quality assurance under the National Skills Framework. The National Quality Council has a key role in bringing together the major players in the vocational and technical education sector - industry, unions, governments, equity groups and practitioners - to oversee and support the current and future quality of vocational and technical education across Australia. It is also critical to ensuring the successful operation of the National Skills Framework – the system's requirements for quality and national consistency in terms of qualifications and the delivery of training. <http://www.nqc.tvetaustralia.com.au/> - Chair John Dawkins.

AVETRA contact: none

**NSCVET**     The National Standards Council for VET is being formed to be the VET regulator prior to the 2013 merger.

**Skills Australia:**     **Skills Australia** is an independent statutory body, providing advice to the Minister for Tertiary Education, Skills, Jobs and Workplace Relations

on Australia's current, emerging and future workforce skills needs and workforce development needs. [skillsaustralia.gov.au](http://skillsaustralia.gov.au) - Mr Robin Shreeve (CEO)

AVETRA contact: AVETRA submission made to 2010 VET review.

### **Productivity**

**Commission** The Productivity Commission is the Australian Government's independent research and advisory body on a range of economic, social and environmental issues affecting the welfare of Australians. Its role, expressed simply, is to help governments make better policies in the long term interest of the Australian community. The Productivity Commission is a statutory body independent of government that provides advice to the government and states about the effectiveness of various industry sectors and government activities and in 2010 the commission was asked to review the VET sector. Head: Michael Kirby <http://www.pc.gov.au/>

AVETRA contact: submission made to the PC review 2010, and a second submission made to the draft report 2011. AVETRA executives present at the draft report discussions in 2011.

### **ISC**

Industry Skills Councils - providing integrated industry intelligence and advice to Skills Australia, government and enterprises on workforce development and skills needs - actively supporting the development, implementation and continuous improvement of high quality training and workforce development products and services including training packages and providing independent skills and training advice to enterprises, including matching identified training needs with appropriate training solutions; working with enterprises, employment service providers, Registered Training Organisations and government to allocate training places under the Productivity Places Program. [ISC.org.au](http://ISC.org.au)

AVETRA contact: members with past experience.

### **TVET**

TVET Australia's responsibilities include the provision of secretariat support services to Ministerial Council for Tertiary Education. TVET Australia is also responsible for providing the national training system with access to a range of catalogues listing quality teaching, learning and assessment resources, including nationally endorsed training packages. Through its Training Products Australia arm, TVET Australia also offers a centralised point of reference for Commonwealth and State-owned training resources, together with a comprehensive selection of materials from private publishers TVET informs the following key decision making bodies of the national training system:

- the National Quality Council (NQC),
- the Flexible Learning Advisory Group (FLAG)

- the National VET Equity Advisory Council (NVEAC)

Finally, TVET Australia has responsibility for the National Audit and Registration Agency (NARA) which manages the audit and registration of multi-jurisdictional training organisations under delegation from States and Territories. Chair – John Dawkins – CEO Neil Edwards  
<http://www.tvetaustralia.com.au>

AVETRA contact: none

**NARA** National Audit and Registration Agency - COAG agreed to the creation of a new national regulator for the VET sector from April 2011 - National Standards Council for Vocational Education and Training. The new regulator will be a Commonwealth statutory authority. The assumption is that in 2013 there will be a single regulator for all the tertiary sector. All jurisdictions except Victoria and Western Australia have agreed to refer powers to the Commonwealth to implement the national regulator. The aim of the national VET regulator is to generate positive results for training providers, VET students, and the Australian economy. The national VET regulator's enhanced risk-management approach to audits will place greater emphasis on those providers with the highest risk profile, benefiting the lowest-risk providers and provide an incentive for all providers to maintain and improve the quality of their delivery.  
<http://www.nara.tvetaustralia.com.au/> Kay Schofield and John Smyth

AVETRA contact: none

**AQFC** The Australian Quality Framework Council – Overseas the national framework: [AQF.edu.au](http://AQF.edu.au)

AVETRA contact: none

**FLAG** Flexible Learning Advisory Group - The Flexible Learning Advisory Group (FLAG) provides strategic direction on national issues related to the directions and priorities for flexible learning in VET, with particular reference to e-learning to a strategically-focused group of senior vocational education and training (VET) personnel advising:

The Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations (DEEWR)  
 The National Senior Officials Committee (NSOC)  
 The Australian Information and Communications Technology in Ed. Committee (AICTEC).

Secretariat Manager- Julie Ahern <http://www.flexiblelearning.net.au>

AVETRA contact: none, individual members

**NVEAC** The National VET Equity Advisory Council - the National VET Equity Advisory Council (NVEAC) has been established to provide high level advice to the Ministerial Council for Tertiary Education and

Employment (MCTEE) to guide equity reform in the national training system. The NVEAC is a single layer advisory body which will consider the issues and barriers that affect all equity groups. Recognising that many clients in the VET system experience multiple disadvantage, the new Council will identify shared priorities for all equity groups, while continuing to build on the work of the previous advisory groups around the particular barriers experienced by people with a disability and Indigenous Australians. The membership of the new Council reflects the diverse range of stakeholders within the sector. Chair Mr Tiga Bayles.  
<http://www.nveac.tvetaustralia.com.au>

AVETRA contact: none

## **BCA**

The Business Council of Australia provides a forum for Australian business leaders to contribute directly to public policy debates. We have helped to initiate and shape the key economic and business reform debates that have underpinned Australia's economic resurgence. Maria Tarrant - Deputy Chief Executive - <http://www.bca.com.au>

AVETRA contact: none

#### 4 – Some VET research centres around Australia

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- WERC:** **Work-based Education Research Centre** is a research and development centre that investigates how learning takes place in, through and for the workplace. Director Berwyn Clayton. [vu.edu.au/work-based-education-research-centre-werc](http://vu.edu.au/work-based-education-research-centre-werc)
- RIVET** **Research in Vocational Education and Training** research group that undertakes VET research projects and collaborative symposia. Leader Cathy Down. [csu.edu.au/faculty/educat/edu/vetfolder/research](http://csu.edu.au/faculty/educat/edu/vetfolder/research)
- CEET** **Centre for Economic Educational Research** is the only centre for the economics of education and training in Australia. A well established research centre, its structure is unique involving two faculties at Monash University -- Education and Business & Economics - and the Australian Council for Educational Research(ACER). [education.monash.edu.au/centres/ceet/](http://education.monash.edu.au/centres/ceet/) - Associate Director Michael Long.
- CREEW** **Centre for Research in Education, Equity and Work** is a foundation member of the Hawke Research Institute for Sustainable Societies (HRI). CREEW has some eighty members engaged in a broad range of research activities in four key areas, in the field of education, employment, equity and the community. [unisa.edu.au/crew](http://unisa.edu.au/crew) – Director Roger Harris.
- CPELL** **The Centre for Post-Compulsory Education and Lifelong Learning** is an internationally-renowned centre for research on school and education and training systems with a very successful track record in designing and undertaking large-scale evaluations of educational programs, policies and initiatives. CPELL brings together researchers who have strong reputations in conducting research covering every state and territory in Australia and every sector of education and training. [edfac.unimelb.edu.au/cpell](http://edfac.unimelb.edu.au/cpell) – Director Richard Teese.
- CRLC** **Centre for Research in Learning and Change** was established in 2006 to bring together the extensive research capacity of the then Faculty of Education at UTS. Director Alison Lee – [www.uts.edu.au/Education/CRLC/](http://www.uts.edu.au/Education/CRLC/) Formed from:  
*Organisational, Vocational and Adult Learning – OVAL*  
*Research Centre for Vocational and Training – RCVET*  
*Researching Adult and Vocational Learning group- RAVL*  
*Changing Knowledges, Changing Identities – CKCI*
- GIER** Griffith Institute for Educational Research - VET research at Griffith University has a long track record but has now been subsumed into a Faculty-based Institute. [www.griffith.edu.au/research/education/IER](http://www.griffith.edu.au/research/education/IER).

## 5 - National VET organisations

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### **AUSTAFE Australian Technical and Further Educational management**

AUSTAFE is a professional association with a commitment to promoting excellence in Vocational Education and Training (VET) and to developing leaders within TAFE. [austafe.edu.au](http://austafe.edu.au)

**Conference: mid-October**

AVETRA contact: Kevin Heyes

### **TAFE Directors**

TAFE Directors Australia (TDA) is the peak national body incorporated to represent Australia's 58 public TAFE Institutes and university TAFE divisions, and the Australia-Pacific Technical College (APTC). CEO Martin Riordan - <http://www.tda.edu.au>

**Conference: mid-September**

AVETRA contact: Kevin Heyes

**ACEN Australian Collaborative Education Network** – The Australian Collaborative Education Network (ACEN) is the professional association for practitioners and researchers from the higher education sector, industry, community and government representatives, involved in work integrated learning (WIL) in Australia. <http://www.acen.edu.au/> work placements –

**Conference : late November**

AVETRA contact: none

### **VET Network**

National Vocational learning and enterprise transitions – VET and career staff – VETnetwork Australia is established as the representative national body for VET in schools for teachers and coordinators in Australia. Secretary Lori Hocking <http://www.vetnetwork.org.au/>

**Conference: mid-September**

AVETRA contact: invitation to AVETRA President to attend national conference 2010.

### **ALA Adult Learning Australia**

The peak body for adult and community education in Australia. ALA is a not-for-profit entity, with both organizational and individual members in all States and Territories who reflect the extraordinary

diversity of adult and community education. ALA is primarily funded by a project grant from the Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations (DEEWR) <https://ala.asn.au/> President Dorothy Lucardie – VP – Barry Golding

**Conference: early November**

AVETRA contact: Barry Golding

**ACPET** **Australian Council for Private Education and Training** - the national industry association for independent providers of post-compulsory education and training, for Australian and international students. Conference August – Chair Kay Ganley <http://www.acpet.edu.au/>

**Conference: late August**

AVETRA contact: Previous invitations to address AVETRA conference (Canberra)

**ACIC** **The Australian Council of Independent Colleges** – an industry association whose membership is made up of private colleges who deliver business and business related courses.

**ERTO A** Enterprise RTO association is a national association representing and supporting business enterprises operating as registered training organisations (RTOs) under the Australian Quality Training Framework (AQTF 2010). Enterprise RTOs now represent a distinct and unique component of the Australian Vocational Education and Training (VET) sector. They differ markedly from TAFE colleges and private providers in their business objectives, operational environment and target learner populations. The primary business of an enterprise RTO **is not** training and development, and the RTO operation is typically embedded within the existing business operations and processes of the enterprise. [ertoa.org.au](http://ertoa.org.au)

**Group  
Training**

Group Training Australia Limited (GTA) is the national association representing a network of around 150 group training organisations (GTOs) located throughout metropolitan, regional and remote areas of Australia. Collectively the national network of group training organisations employs around 35,000 apprentices and trainees and over 100,000 businesses have used a group training organisation to manage the employment of their apprentices and trainees.-Jim Barron CEO - <http://www.gtald.com.au/>

**Conference: late October**

AVETRA contact: none

**AVTEC** The Australian VET Teacher Educators' Colloquium - AVTEC is a group of people who are all involved with the preparation and development of VET professionals in Australia. We have participants from all the Australian universities providing VET Teacher Education and also Staff Development personnel in the VET sector.

AVETRA contact: none

**HERDSA** The Higher Education Research and Development Society of Australasia is a scholarly society for people committed to the improvement of teaching and learning in higher and tertiary education. HERDSA works to advance education in the higher and tertiary sector; facilitate the improvement of teaching and learning; encourage and disseminate research on teaching, learning, development, leadership and policy; recognise and reward outstanding contributions to higher and tertiary education <http://www.herdsa.org.au>.

**Conference: July**

AVETRA contact: individual memberships

**IVETA** **The International VET Association** - IVETA is an organisation and network of vocational educators, vocational skills training organizations, business and industrial firms, and other individuals and groups interested or involved in vocational education and training worldwide. IVETA is dedicated to the advancement and improvement of high-quality vocational education and training wherever it exists and wherever it is needed. Abel Modungwa, IVETA President <http://www.iveta.org>

**Conference: November**

AVETRA contact: none, individual memberships

**SALT** Supporting And Linking Tradeswomen - Salt is a newly founded organisation & support group for women working in non traditional trade. Leader -Fiona Shewring  
0419 160 934

AVETRA contact: none

**IEEG** Indigenous Employment & Enterprise Group - no website available.

AVETRA contact: none

## 6 - VET research publications

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**IJTR**            *International Journal of Training Research*  
The AVETRA journal published by content management.  
<http://jtr.e-contentmanagement.com/>

AVETRA contact: Editor Peter Kell

**Campus  
Review**            Australasian weekly newspaper dedicated to reporting higher  
Education and vocational education and training issues.

AVETRA contacts: Presidential changes and articles published in  
2009/20010

### Relevant journals with AVETRA member connections

*Australian Journal of Adult Learning – Editor: Roger Harris*  
*Education + Training – Associate editor: Erica Smith*  
*Vocations and Learning: Studies in professional and vocational  
education – Editor: Stephen Billett*

### Other VET journals

*Journal of Education and Work*  
*Journal of Further and Higher Education*  
*International Journal of Lifelong Education,*  
*Journal of Vocational Education and Training*  
*Studies in Continuing Education*  
*Research in Post Compulsory Education*  
*Journal of Adult and Continuing Education*  
*European Journal of Vocational Training*  
*Career & Technical Education Research*  
*Journal of European Industrial Training*  
*Studies in the Education of Adults*  
*International Journal of Training and Development*  
*Adult Education Quarterly*  
*International Journal of Vocational Education and Training*  
*Community College Journal of Research and Practice*  
*Convergence: International Journal of Adult Education*  
*New Zealand Journal of Adult Learning*  
*Australian Journal of Career Development*  
*Industrial and Commercial Training*  
*Action Learning Action Research Journal*