

Research Activity 3: Analysing critical issues in teaching, learning and assessment

Introduction

This is the consortium's major project on teaching, assessment and learning – the core business of providers. The project acknowledges the challenges for VET practice identified by recent projects such as *Enhancing the capability of VET professionals* and the *High level review of training packages* and as reported in other recent research on VET pedagogy, both in Australia and internationally.

The purpose of the project is to identify critical issues in teaching, learning and assessment, in order to inform and influence VET practice. The project will examine learners' preferences for how they approach their own learning and the implications for teaching practice. The project also will identify examples of good practice and the factors that help and hinder innovation in teaching, learning and assessment.

The research activity will:

- identify what individual learners and industry clients want from VET in terms of teaching and learning experiences, services and support, and propose how these can best be met
- identify the skills needed by VET practitioners in the design of learning programs and resources and in the provision of assessment services to meet the needs of different client groups and propose how these skills might be developed most effectively
- summarise the critical success factors – individual, organisational and systemic – in developing and implementing innovative approaches to teaching, learning and assessment in VET providers, and propose how models about good practice might be most effectively transmitted

Products

- **Literature review** that examines international and Australian trends in teaching and learning policy and practice
- **Discussion paper** as the basis for four focus groups
- **Commentary** on developments in England and Scotland in teaching, learning and assessment
- **Description of major VET networks** and how they contribute to building and promoting good practice in teaching, learning and assessment
- **Fifteen case studies** from Australian VET that demonstrate good practice in teaching, learning and assessment
- **Two mini-conferences**
- **Final research report** that summarises the findings of this research

Benefits

VET practitioners will benefit from this research by:

- finding out about the latest thinking around learners' preferences, teaching practices and assessment strategies
- increasing their awareness of the existence and value of networks in VET that focus on teaching, learning and assessment
- comparing their own experiences with those recorded in the fifteen case studies
- understanding factors that affect innovation in teaching, learning and assessment