VOCEDplus News

VOCED
plus

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VOCED turns 25!

VOCEDplus (formerly VOCED) was originally produced with assistance and support from a network of clearinghouses throughout Australia, set up to share information about activities in the technical and further education (TAFE) sector. VOCED came into existence in September 1989 when two existing hard copy publications, *Initiatives in TAFE* and *TAFE Projects in Progress*, were incorporated to become the *Vocational Education and Training Research Database*. It was produced in an electronic version (distributed on diskette) as well as hard copy, with quarterly updates.

In 1997, the first web version of VOCED was made available from the NCVER website. 1998 saw the commencement of a major project to upgrade the database and expand its coverage of both Australian and international technical, vocational education and training information, leading to the creation of VOCED's own web site in 2001.

In 2009-11, NCVER undertook a major rebuild of the database and website and VOCEDplus was born. The upgrade took further advantage of new technologies to provide improved services in terms of inclusion of a repository of full-text material, improved searching, integration

with other knowledge sources, and Web 2.0 technologies such as RSS feeds, and share and bookmark tools.

Thank you to all VOCEDplus users who have supported the database over the years and helped us reach this milestone.

Results of the last poll

Our last poll asked our users what they thought the hottest topic in tertiary education was out of the five areas listed below:

○ Governance of education and training systems

○ MOOCs

○ Quality assurance in education and training

○ Work integrated learning

○ Youth unemployment

We received an overwhelming response with 210 votes and the result was close. Quality assurance in education and training came in first with 30% of the votes followed by youth unemployment with 25% and work integrated learning on 20%.

Based on this finding, the team will now investigate what information we can further gather to assist in addressing this issue.

Thank you to those who responded and helped us gain a better understanding of the challenges the sector is facing.

Pathways for Practitioners Support

In an effort to improve transition pathways between vocational education and training (VET) and higher education through the team behind VOCEDplus were asked to develop and implement information and connection activities to assist practitioners. The Pathways Support for Practioners page on VOCEDplus provides access to pathways-related material in the following categories

Resources

- General research and policy resources
- Resources for practitioners
- Occupation specific resources
    - Accounting
    - Building and construction
    - Early childhood education and care
    - Engineering
    - Nursing

The page also includes a link to an online user community that is designed to enable practitioners to engage and network with other practitioners in the field. We encourage you to join the network and start a conversation with your peers.

Special Collections updated

VOCEDplus special collections are groups of documents selected by the VOCEDplus team and tagged so that they can be automatically retrieved together through one search for easy browsing and access. Two special collections have recently been updated. These are:

The special collection, 'Policy and research', contains tertiary education policy and research from various regions of

Policy and research

Tertiary education policy and research from

- Across countries
- Africa and the Middle East
- Asia and the Pacific region
- Australia and New Zealand
- Canada
- Europe
- Latin America and the Caribbean
- UK and the Republic of Ireland
- USA

the world. The documents are grouped under the headings of: Across countries; Africa and the Middle East; Asia and the Pacific region; Australia and New Zealand; Canada; Europe; Latin America and the Caribbean; UK and the Republic of Ireland; and the USA.

'People with low literacy skills' contains policy and research resources relating to this equity groups in relation to tertiary education and the labour market. You will find this list of resources within the Equity in Australia collection.

Equity in Australia

Australian policy and research documents concerning various 'equity groups'

- General
- Gender
- Indigenous Australians
- Older workers
- People in correctional institutions
- People living in remote or regional areas
- People of low socioeconomic status
- People with disabilities or special needs
- People with low literacy skills
- People from non-English speaking backgrounds (NESB)
- Youth

Both of these collections have been updated to include the most recent titles and can be viewed via the Browse Collections page.

Request research assistance

A reminder that the team behind VOCEDplus also provides a reference and research service. Requesting a literature search to be done on your behalf not only saves you time, but it gives you access to our expert staff who have extensive knowledge of the tertiary education sector. Your reference librarian will work closely with you to determine your information needs, and identify the most relevant material. Contact us to find out more about this professional and personalised service. See Our Services for more information including associated fees.