



# TAFE

Delivering on the public mission

## VTA STATE CONFERENCE

15 – 16 August 2019

RACV City Club

501 Bourke Street, Melbourne

[vta.vic.edu.au](http://vta.vic.edu.au)





# TAFE

## Delivering on the public mission

### CONFERENCE OVERVIEW

At the passing of Victoria's revolutionary Education Act 1872 and its weaving of public education into the fabric of this state, then Governor Lord John Manners-Sutton declared that the Act would "promote the happiness, intelligence, and prosperity of the people".

It is now possible to take the Governor's words for granted as few would disagree that public education provides benefits to both the individual citizen and to society as a whole. Indeed, it is this spirit that informs the activities of TAFE and its civic duty to support the wellbeing and prosperity of the people and communities it serves.

But 177 years after the passing of the seminal Act, it is worth pausing to reflect on the role of public education and how it can best position itself to contribute to solving new and intensifying challenges such as global warming, social change and the future of work.

This conference will focus on the public mission of our TAFE institutes. It will consider the contribution made by public education institutions like TAFE, beyond 'retail', or financial metrics and explore its evolving role and contribution to social, economic and environmental wellbeing.

With a line-up of national and international luminaries leading and informing the discussion, the conference is sure to challenge steadfast views and provide a roadmap for the future of TAFE and public education.

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# Conference Program

Thursday 15 August

## MEETINGS / LEVEL 2

10.00AM – 12.45PM	Collaboration between Regional TAFEs (Open to Managers in Victoria's regional TAFE institutes)
10.30AM – 12.30PM	Victorian TAFE Board Chairs' Forum (By invitation only to Victorian TAFE Board Chairs)
1.00PM – 2.00PM	Association Council (By invitation only to Victorian CEO Council members and Board Chairs)

## SYMPOSIUMS / LEVEL 2

2.30PM – 5.30PM	<b>Showcase – Workforce Training Innovation Fund projects</b> The Workforce Training Innovation Fund is now into its second year of operation. This symposium explores the exciting and innovative activities that the TAFE Network has been pursuing through the Fund. It offers attendees an opportunity to learn from this experience, to see the VET sector at its innovative best and get a sense of what the future of training will look like. (Open to VTA members and guests)
2.30PM – 5.30PM	<b>International Education Forum</b> The Forum will address key developments in international education affecting Victorian TAFEs and provide access to government and international education sector representatives. The program will feature speakers including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Rebecca Hall, Senior Industry Specialist, International Education, Austrade</li><li>• Amanda Pickrell, Director International Education, Department of Jobs, Precincts and Regions</li></ul> (Open to VTA members and guests)
2.30 – 5.30PM	<b>Victorian TAFE Board Directors' Forum</b> A workshop for TAFE Board Directors who are at once meeting the governance responsibilities to their institute and delivering on the collective promise of the Victorian TAFE Network. Facilitated by Lisa Smith from Minds At Work (Open to Victorian TAFE Board Directors only)

## DINNER / LEVEL 17

6.30PM	<b>Pre-dinner drinks</b>
7.00PM	<b>State Conference Dinner</b> A networking extravaganza for Victorian TAFE stakeholders. This year the dinner will feature: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The 20-year celebration of the Victorian TAFE Association</li><li>• Tom Lobbe (Swinburne University) – winner of the Kangan Institute Inspirational TAFE Student Award, 2018 Victorian Young Achiever Awards.</li></ul>

# Conference Program

Friday 16 August

## STATE CONFERENCE / LEVEL 17

8.00AM Registrations open

8.30AM **Conference Opening:** Welcome and Introduction – Beverley O'Connor  
Welcome to Country by the Wurundjeri tribe

8.40AM **Minister's Address:** Hon. Gayle Tierney MP  
Minister for Training and Skills and Minister for Higher Education

9.00AM **Opening Address: The role of public education**  
Professor Glyn Davis AC, Chief Executive Officer, Paul Ramsay Foundation

### 9.50AM MORNING TEA

10.15AM **Keynote address: Evolving our education model to meet future of work, future of learning challenges**  
Jamai Blivin, Chief Executive Officer and Founder, Innovate & Educate (New Mexico, USA)

11.15AM **Panel: Public education's evolving role in Applied Research**

- Paul Whitelaw, Associate Director, Higher Education and Quality William Angliss Institute
- Professor Debra Kiegaldie, Clinical Chair, Faculty of Health Sciences, Holmesglen Institute and Healthscope Australia

### 12.00PM LUNCH

12.45PM **Case Study: Teaching Endangered Aboriginal Languages**

- Frank Merlino, Principal, Victorian School of Languages
- Pandora Petrovska, RTO Manager, Victorian School of Languages

1.05PM **Panel: Partnerships delivering on the public mission**

- **Regional/Community partnerships**  
Tim Weight, Executive Director Strategic Engagement, TAFE Gippsland
- **International partnership**  
Jennie Dehn, General Manager International, Chisholm Institute
- **Disability partnership**  
Cathy Frazer, Executive Director Student Experience, Melbourne Polytechnic

### 2.05PM AFTERNOON TEA

2.20PM **Presentation: Learning-integrated work: why TAFE needs to be *in* the Workplace**  
Dr Sean Gallagher, Director Centre for the New Workforce, Swinburne University

3.00PM **Plenary Panel: Reflections at the end of the day**

- Jamai Blivin, Chief Executive Officer and Founder, Innovate & Educate (New Mexico, USA)
- Paul Whitelaw, Associate Director, Higher Education and Quality, William Angliss Institute
- Glenn Blair, Dean Vocational Education, School of Vocational Design and Social Context, RMIT University

3.30PM **Summary:** Beverley O'Connor, MC

3.40PM CLOSE

# Meet our speakers



**Hon Gayle Tierney MP**

*Minister for Training and Skills and Minister for Higher education*

Gayle has a strong connection with rural and regional communities. Apart from being an advocate for regional infrastructure and employment, Gayle is also a strong supporter of environmental sustainability, gender representation, social inclusion and community development. She was the first woman to become a State Secretary of the Vehicle Division of the traditionally male-dominated Australian Manufacturing Workers Union, serving in this role from 1993 to 2006, and also as the Federal President from 2000 to 2006. Gayle also served on the Executive of the Australian Council of Trade Unions (ACTU) from 2000 to 2006. In 2006, Gayle was elected to represent Western Victoria in the Legislative Council. Gayle was appointed as Minister for Training and Skills, and Minister for Corrections in November 2016. Following the 2019 Victorian State Election, Gayle was appointed as Minister for Training and Skills, and Minister for Higher Education.



**Professor Glyn Davis AC FASSA FIPAA**

*Chief Executive Officer, Paul Ramsay Foundation*

Professor Glyn Davis AC joined the Paul Ramsay Foundation in January this year. He was previously Vice-Chancellor at the University of Melbourne. Alongside his role at the Foundation, Glyn Davis remains Distinguished Professor of Political Science in the Crawford School of Public Policy at the Australian National University. In 2018, Professor Davis was elected a Visiting Fellow at the Blavatnik School of Government and a Visiting Fellow at Exeter College, Oxford. He also holds visiting appointments at Kings College London, Manchester University and the Faculty of Arts, University of Melbourne. Professor Davis is a public policy specialist, with experience in government and higher education. His community work includes partnering with Indigenous programs in the Goulburn-Murray Valley and Cape York, and service on a range of arts boards.



**Jamai Blivin**

*Founder and Chief Executive Officer, Innovate+Educate*

Jamai Blivin started the non-profit Innovate+Educate in 2009 with a vision for an industry-led board with a mission "to create new employment pathways to employment based on skills and competencies". In 2001, after a 15 year career in investment, Jamai changed tack to pursue her passion for education, teaching under-served youth at middle school in Arkansas and North Carolina. In 2006, Jamai joined the North Carolina Technology Association (NCTA), going on to lead the NCTA's Education Foundation. In 2007, Jamai founded the Knowledge Workforce Committee to address IT skill shortages affecting NCTA members. She returned home to Santa Fe, New Mexico in 2008 to work with New Mexico State University to launch the state's online learning network. This provided the opportunity to work with Intel and Lockheed Martin to launch Innovate+Educate.



**MC – Beverley O'Connor**

*ABC Television presenter*

Beverley O'Connor has over 25 years' experience working in the media across both radio and television. She originally specialised in economics and politics, but soon found an outlet for her passion for sport, anchoring sport for the Seven Network and Saturday Afternoon Sport for the ABC. Beverley is currently an anchor on the ABC's News Channel, presenting The World and News and was a regular fill-in on ABC News Breakfast. She is involved as an ambassador and driving force behind multiple charities and foundations, and is a Life Governor of the Drug and Alcohol Foundation having served six years on the Board.

# Meet our speakers



**Paul Whitelaw (PhD)**

*Associate Director Higher Education and Quality, William Angliss Institute*

Paul Whitelaw is responsible for the delivery of Higher Education courses offered by William Angliss Institute, and is responsible for supporting teaching areas to comply with State and Commonwealth compliance frameworks. Paul has over 20 years' experience in various teaching and executive roles, including at the School of Hospitality, Tourism and Marketing in the Faculty of Business at Victoria University. He has nearly 15 years' experience in various line and executive positions in the hospitality industry as well as rigorous academic training in finance, accounting and statistics.



**Professor Debra Kiegaldie (PhD, MEd, BEdSt)**

*Clinical Chair, Faculty of Health Sciences, Holmesglen Institute and Healthscope Australia*

Debra Kiegaldie is a registered nurse and an intensive care nursing specialist. Debra holds an adjunct appointment with Monash University's Eastern Health Clinical School in addition to her Clinical Chair role. Debra's career in higher education has spanned over 30 years where she has provided major contributions to the field of education and simulation. From 2011 – 2016, Debra was Director of Prevocational Medical Education at Monash Health, one of the largest health service providers in Melbourne. Debra is currently working on two major government grants – Preventing falls in Australian hospitals and a Virtual Reality simulation program in nursing.



**Frank Merlino (BA, BEd, MEd)**

*Principal, Victorian School of Languages*

Frank Merlino is the longest serving Principal at the specialist Victorian School of Languages (VSL), a role he has held since 1995. In 2004, the VSL added to the 50 languages it teaches by partnering with Northland Secondary Collage and Monash University to teach the Yorta Yorta language to adult students. This was followed in 2006 with a partnership with Monash University to teach Wergaia to adult students in Ballarat and Horsham. These students were the first to pass the VCE Aboriginal Reclamation Language exam. In 2018, the VSL was given responsibility to develop and teach a Certificate 3 course to prospective teachers of Aboriginal languages.



**Pandora Petrovska**

*RTO Manager, Victorian School of Languages*

Dr Pandora Petrovska has over 35 years' experience in language education, having worked with over fifty language communities in Victoria, including Aboriginal and refugee groups. She has written extensive language curriculum and professional development material for teachers and previously led curriculum as the School's Assistant Principal - Curriculum. She currently manages the project for Aboriginal languages at the Victorian School of Languages. Pandora holds a PhD, which explored the concept of linguistic human rights and analyses how the Australian legal system dealt with issues of language, identity and historic power relations .



### **Tim Weight (B. Ag. Sc. (Uni Melb); FAICD)**

*Executive Director Strategic Engagement, TAFE Gippsland*

Prior to his role at TAFE Gippsland as Executive Director Strategic Engagement, Tim was a director on the board of the TAFE Institute. Tim's employment and non-executive director roles have provided a broad experience within agribusiness, property development and feasibility assessment, regional economic development, corporate management, strategy, and governance.



### **Jennie Dehn**

*General Manager International Development, Chisholm Institute of TAFE*

Jennie Dehn has over 20 years' experience in the international education sector. Prior to joining Chisholm, she was the Executive Director Corporate and Commercial Services for the Fiji-based Australian Government funded Australia-Pacific Technical College. Chisholm's International Project division focuses on identifying and developing international partnerships and opportunities and ensuring delivery of quality outcomes for clients. The division currently manages 40 educational partnerships across the globe, including in China, Vietnam, the Middle East, Thailand, Korea, and the Pacific Islands.



### **Cathy Frazer**

*Cathy Frazer, Executive Director Student Experience, Melbourne Polytechnic*

Cathy Frazer has held various roles within the VET and Higher Education sectors both in Australia and overseas, including roles at RMIT University and Melbourne Polytechnic over the past 18 years. Cathy was instrumental in developing Melbourne Polytechnic's Inaugural Disability Action Plan and Chaired the institute's Disability Steering Committee for many years.



### **Dr Sean Gallagher**

*Director Centre for the New Workforce, Swinburne University of Technology*

Sean Gallagher is the inaugural Director of Swinburne's Centre for the New Workforce. Sean has extensive experience establishing and leading research and education initiatives, including as Deputy CEO of the United States Studies Centre at the University of Sydney. A strong believer in the transformative power of learning in supportive environments, Sean has led workforce initiatives focused on experiential learning that prepare students for the changing global marketplace. Sean's work and leadership on the impact of technology and globalisation on higher education, and more recently on the future of work, has shaped federal and state government policy.



### **Glenn Blair**

*Dean - Vocational Education in the School of Vocational Design and Social Context at RMIT University.*

Glenn has extensive experience as a teacher and a manager in the vocational education sector. In addition to the many years of teaching in music programs, Glenn has played a key role in the development of vocational programs in the creative industries including degrees, sub-degrees, state and national qualifications.

# VTA State Conference 2019

15-16 August | RACV City Club, 501 Bourke Street, Melbourne

Register online at [www.vta.vic.edu.au](http://www.vta.vic.edu.au)

## Conference registration fees

Register by 9 August	Price (incl. GST)
<b>Individual Member</b> (Dinner and Conference)	\$600
<b>Individual Member</b> (Conference only)	\$500
<b>Members' Discount Pack</b> (if registering 5 or more for Dinner and Conference)	\$500
<b>Individual Members</b> (Dinner only)	\$150
<b>Non-Member</b> (Dinner and Conference)	\$800
<b>Non-Member</b> (Conference only)	\$700

### Pre-conference symposiums (15 August)

#### - no cost

If members are registering for the dinner and/or conference, the symposiums are selected in Step 2 of the registration process.

If members are only registering for a symposium, please register online, and select 'Symposium only'.

### Accommodation and travel

Accommodation and travel is not included in the conference fees, and is the responsibility of delegates. Information on accommodation and travel is available on the VTA website.

### Payment terms

Payment must be made prior to the event. Payment is made by EFT or credit card. Credit card payments must be made during registration via the secure credit card gateway. A tax invoice will be emailed to the first registrant upon completion of a valid registration.

### Cancellation policy and substitutions

The Victorian TAFE Association (VTA) reserves the right to alter the program for this event, including the presenter(s), without further notice. However the event is intended to run as advertised.

The VTA reserves the right to cancel this event due insufficient numbers. Registrants will be notified if this occurs and payment refunded in full.

Refunds will only be issued on receipt of a written cancellation. A substitute delegate is welcome to attend at no extra charge if VTA is notified. The full fee will be refunded provided VTA receives the cancellation prior to the RSVP date of the event. No refunds will be issued if cancellation occurs after the RSVP date of the event. No refunds will be issued if the registrant fails to attend the event.

### RSVP

Registrations close 9 August 2019.

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The peak body for Victoria's TAFE network

