



TAFE Connecting the dots

VTA State Conference

16 – 17 September 2021

An online event at vtaconference2021.vfairs.com

vta.vic.edu.au



Welcome to the 2021 VTA Conference – **Connecting the Dots**

In March *Future Skills for Victoria – Driving collaboration and innovation in post-secondary education and training* – the final report from the Skills for Victoria's Growing Economy Review (the Macklin Review) was released. The core recommendations from the review described a skills sector achieving innovation, effectiveness, and efficiency through a collaborative (rather than a competitive) approach.

In our response to the review the Association proposed a broad interpretation of collaboration beyond just TAFEs collaborating on issues of improving quality to include the relationships between key stakeholders – between public VET providers, and with government and industry – collaborations that could lead to the co-creation of policy settings and effective relationships.

The overarching theme of the conference *Connecting the Dots* will be the driver for encouraging us to further consider what collaboration means between and across the Victorian TAFE sector, and in the wider context of collaboration with our stakeholders. It will reflect VTA members' connections with students, industries, communities, and government.

The conference will pursue the VTA's advocacy themes of:

- The place of TAFE
- Thought leadership
- Innovative partnerships

Through our speakers and discussions, we'll explore and engage in the conversations that animate the TAFE and VET sector, and open new ones.

Conference this year is about today – and tomorrow – and how we get there – together.

With thanks to our sponsors

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Conference Program

Thursday 16 September

12.30 – 1.30pm	Exhibition Hall Open
1.30pm – 1.50pm	Conference Opening Arron Wood AM (MC), Chief Industry Engagement and Education Delivery Officer, Bendigo Kangan Institute Welcome to Country
1.50pm – 2.50pm	Keynote Address The Hon John Brumby AO
2.50pm – 3.30pm	Industry Panel – Connecting the insights on skills reform The TAFE sector is continuously asked to provide information and data about operations and planning. So what do the conversations that the sector has with consultants tell us, and how can they connect our thinking to future planning? Jemma Horsley, National Skills Lead and Director, Management Consulting at KPMG Australia Hamish Ride, Principal at Nous Group Les Trudzik, Director, ACIL Allen Consulting
3.30pm – 3.50pm	Afternoon tea break
3.50pm – 4.30pm	Keynote Address Phil Ruthven, Chief Executive Officer and Founder at Ruthven Institute and IBISWorld
4.30pm – 5.00pm	Early Reflections Craig Robertson, Inaugural CEO, Victorian Skills Authority
5.00pm – 5.15pm	Closing remarks Arron Wood AM

Conference Program

Friday 17 September

8.50am – 8.55am	Conference Opening: Welcome and Introduction Jordana Borensztajn (MC)
8.55am – 9.10am	TAFE Directors Australia Update Jenny Dodd, Interim CEO, TDA
9.10am – 10.00am	Developing a culture of collaboration Jo Pyne, Chief Academic Officer at TAFE Queensland
10.00am – 10.30am	Minister's Address The Hon. Gayle Tierney MP Deputy Leader of the Government in the Legislative Council, Minister for Training and Skills, Minister for Higher Education
10.30am – 11.15am	Shepparton South Technical to showbiz technology star Grant Petty, founder and owner of Blackmagic Design, in conversation with VTA Executive Director, Jeremy Irvine
11.15am – 11.45am	Morning tea break
11.45am – 12.30pm	Presentation with Q&A: Digital Transformation and the TAFE Experience Jane Trewin, Executive Director, Educational Delivery, Box Hill Institute Yasminka Nemet, Future Skills Lead at Microsoft Dr Geethani Nair, Director of Digital Skills & Concepts at Digital Skills Organisation Brad Davies, Vector Consulting
12.30pm – 1.30pm	The Great Debate: Training packages are no longer fit for purpose A wry look at a serious subject Frances Coppolillo, Chief Executive, Melbourne Polytechnic Mary Faraone, Chief Executive Officer, Holmesglen Institute Geoff Gwilym, Chief Executive Officer, Victorian Automotive Chamber of Commerce Megan Lilly, Head of Education & Training, Australian Industry Group Jo Pyne, Chief Academic Officer, TAFE Queensland Craig Robertson, CEO, TAFE Directors Australia Stephen Varty, Chief Executive Officer, Chisholm Institute
1.30pm – 1.45pm	Closing remarks
1.45pm	Close