MEDIA RELEASE
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Attention: Higher education editors

Change needed to ensure quality in VET teaching

The VET teaching profession needs to be transformed to accommodate growing student numbers and diversity, according to a new report by the LH Martin Institute.

With workforce participation rates expected to rise from 65% to 69% by 2025, the role of VET will be critical in ensuring Australia’s workforce skills development and social inclusion. VET’s role will need to expand and it will need to do things differently, according to The Quality of Teaching in VET report.

Co-author Associate Professor Leesa Wheelahan, LH Martin Institute at the University of Melbourne, said VET must provide students access to high quality vocational education that prepares them for a dynamic workforce.

“Australia cannot continue with more of the same. VET teachers and trainers will need to be equipped with the knowledge and skills to enable them to teach a wider range of students at higher levels of knowledge and skills, as well as ensuring that students have the foundation skills they need,” she said.

Funded by the Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations and managed by the Australian College of Educators, the report explores the quality of VET teaching and teacher qualifications. It also evaluates the impact of the VET student experience and outcomes.

The report draws on the results of interviews with industry peak bodies, skills councils, researchers, teachers and VET institutions and a web survey of 1400 participants. Recommendations include establishing a national VET professional body, introducing standards for VET teaching and training, and evaluating the quality of teaching through a national student satisfaction survey.

Implementation of these changes will need to be staggered and require a greater commitment of resources by governments, RTOs and employers. Co-author Gavin Moodie, RMIT, said: “Transforming VET will take a long-term sustained commitment and investment”.

The final report is available to view at: www.lhmartininstitute.edu.au

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