Australasian Vocational Education and Training Research Association (AVETRA): 23rd Annual Conference

23rd - 24th April 2020, Citadines Conference Centre, Melbourne (131-135 Bourke St)

20/20 vision for VET: Research at the centre of future policy and practice

The venue is in central Melbourne near restaurant and theatre districts, and close to some of Melbourne's magnificent parks. There are many nearby hotels, and a discount is available for accommodation at Citadines.

Call for Papers

If you would like to present a paper on your recent research, please submit a 250-300 word abstract by **December 5th 2019, to AVETRA2020@federation.edu.au**   Instructions are provided overleaf.

Abstracts should relate to one or more of the conference streams: VET policy perspectives; VET practice perspectives; Careers and transitions; Contexts for VET; Voices of stakeholders; Big data stories; Open theme. (More detail overleaf.)

<u>Keynote speakers</u>

Professor Stephanie Allais, Research Chair of Skills Development, University of the Witwatersrand and Special Advisor to the Minister of Higher Education and Training: ***TVET in developing countries: Constraints and possibilities***

Professor Rod McDonald, Principal, Ithaca Group, former Special Advisor to Australian National Training Authority; author of seminal report on VET research: *No Small Change: **Research at the centre of policy and practice - is it too much to expect?***

 Professor Ann-Marie Bathmaker, Professor of Vocational and Higher Education, University of Birmingham: *Leadership dilemmas & incompatible goals? Pursuing access, social inclusion, social mobility & employability in public further education*

Registration will open by late November. Registration costs will be:

- Full price (non-members): $495 for full conference including early-evening social event on the first day; $265 for Day 1 (including social event); $240 for Day 2.
- AVETRA member price: $395 for full conference including early-evening social event on the first day; $215 for Day 1 (including social event); $190 for Day 2.

More conference details will be progressively posted on the AVETRA website www.avetra.org.au and through our social media channels @AVETRA1 #AVETRAConf2020

For conference and sponsorship enquiries please email: **AVETRA2020@federation.edu.au**

Joining AVETRA now provides membership till the end of 2020.
To join, email: avetra@theassociationspecialists.com.au

Overview of abstract requirements for AVETRA 2020

Relevance: Abstracts must be about VET, and must be based on research or on rigorous analysis of existing research and/or literature. Abstracts should relate to one of the conference streams (see overleaf). There is a maximum of two abstracts per person. Send your abstract to **AVETRA2020@federation.edu.au**

Content of abstract: The abstract should include a title, and cover: focus of the paper, the research question, the reason for the research, the method/procedures used in the research and/or rigorous analysis; the significance of the research for knowledge, policy and/or practice; the findings (or findings so far); and three to five references that will be used. It should also state the stream or streams to which the abstract most relates (see below). The authors' names and their institutions should be included at a

Peer review: The abstracts will be blind peer-reviewed by two or more experienced researchers. On-time submissions will receive swift feedback. Selection of abstracts will focus on: the relevance of the topic to VET; whether the paper will make an original and/or innovative contribution to knowledge and/or policy/practice; whether there is a clear research question; whether there is a well-described and appropriate methodology which would lead logically to the findings and conclusions; whether the abstract is well-organised and clearly written; and the use of appropriate literature.

Some guidance notes on writing abstracts will shortly be available on the conference web site via www.avetra.org.au These will be particularly useful for people writing their first conference abstract.

There will be an opportunity (optional) to submit a full paper to be peer-reviewed. Full papers will be due on March 2nd 2020 and guidelines will be provided.

Streams for abstracts

VET policy perspectives: This stream will include research examining training system/s, including papers on governance, reform, regulation and international frameworks, including the sustainable development goals (SDGs) and other supranational agendas for education.

VET practice perspectives: This stream will include research examining VET pedagogy, curriculum and partnerships, qualifications, the different contexts for VET delivery and for adult learning, industry collaborations, the needs of particular learner groups, the VET workforce and its qualifications, and innovations in practice.

Careers and transitions: This stream will include research examining pathways and transitions between sectors and learning contexts, including transitions from VET to work, from school to VET and school to work, and from VET to higher education and higher education to VET. This would include papers on the status of VET.

Contexts for VET: This stream will include research examining various contextual dimensions that shape VET policy, practice and research, including sustainability, Industry 4.0, workforce development agendas, economic change, regionality and rurality, migration.

Voices of stakeholders: This stream will include papers that illuminate stakeholder voices and attitudes, including learners, teachers, leaders, industry bodies and employers, and bodies representing particular access and equity groups, such as indigenous Australians, people with disabilities and people from CALD backgrounds.

Big data stories: This stream will include papers that draw on big data (e.g. AVETMISS, NCVER collections, ABS, HILDA, LSAY, OECD) to illuminate patterns and trends in Australian and international TVET systems; may include meta-analysis, longitudinal and time-series.

Open theme: This stream will include papers that sits outside the above themes, but are still aligned with the conference theme. It will also include research on VET research itself, including applied research undertaken by VET practitioners and institutional leaders