

**Survey of VET teachers/trainers/assessors about professional development**

**Background information**

This document contains a survey developed for an Australian Research Council-funded project on Vocational Education and Training (VET) teacher qualifications and their contribution to quality in the VET system.

The researchers in the project were: Professor Erica Smith (Federation University), Dr Keiko Yasukawa (University of Technology Sydney), Professor Roger Harris (University of South Australia) and Dr Jackie Tuck (Federation University). The project’s industry Partner Organisations were: TAFE Queensland, the VET Development Centre, Federation Training, the Australian Council of Private Education and Training and the National Centre for Vocational Education Research.

The project web site is at <http://federation.edu.au/research-vet-quality>

The research for the project as a whole was carried out during 2015 and 2016, and the survey was administered in November 2016. The survey was administered on-line and was distributed via three large providers of professional development (PD) to VET teachers/trainers who forwarded the survey to people who had attended their PD events during 2016. Individual responses from VET teachers/trainers outside these PD providers were not sought because we wanted to know response rates. The three PD providers were:

* The Australian Council for Private Education and Training (ACPET);
* VET Development Centre; and
* Velg Training.

The survey was developed with considerable assistance and input from the project Partner Organisations, the project Reference Group, and the three PD providers; and was piloted with a small sample of VET teachers/trainers including staff from Federation University TAFE. We are very grateful for the assistance of these staff.

As the survey was on-line, with automatic skips between questions, instructions have been inserted into this document.

Others are invited to use the survey, or questions from it, for educational purposes, including

* International comparisons
* Professional development purposes
* Formal educational programs

It would be appreciated if any uses of the survey are communicated to the project leader, Erica Smith, on e.smith@federation.edu.au, and appropriately acknowledged.

|  |
| --- |
| **Survey of VET teachers/trainers/assessors about professional development.** |
| Introduction |
| **We invite you to take part in an online survey which is part of a national project on VET teachers/trainers and VET quality.****The project is funded through the Australian Research Council (ARC) and focuses on teaching/training quality in the vocational education and training (VET) system. The study is being conducted over two years by researchers from Federation University Australia, University of Technology Sydney, University of South Australia, and the National Centre for Vocational Education Research.****Other phases of this research have involved preliminary interviews and focus groups, case studies in selected training providers, a national survey about teaching/training, and there will be a final phase where we will survey experts in the field about the implications of the project’s findings.****The message with the link to the survey has been sent to you by a provider of professional development (PD), which has agreed to participate in this research project. The provider will not see your individual responses.****In the survey we will start with a few questions about yourself, and go on to ask about professional development (PD) activities you have undertaken and your views about them. Your responses will be really valuable. The survey will take approximately 10-15 minutes to complete. At the end of the survey you can give us your contact details, if you like, to be put into a draw for one of two $100 gift vouchers. These details will be separated from your responses to the survey.****Your participation is voluntary and you are under no obligation to take part. The research has been approved by Federation University’s Human Research Ethics Committee, and in completing the survey you are giving consent to your involvement.*****Any information or personal details gathered in the course of the research will remain confidential and neither your name nor your organisation’s name will be used or published. Data will only be accessed by the researchers/assistants working on the project, and will be stored securely for five years before being destroyed. If you have any concerns, or would like further information, please contact the project leader, Erica Smith on 03-5327 9665 or*** ***e.smith@federation.edu.au*****You can see more information about the project at the web address:** [**http://federation.edu.au/research-vet-quality**](http://federation.edu.au/research-vet-quality) |

|  |
| --- |
| **Survey of VET teachers/trainers/assessors about professional development.** |
| Eligibility |
| **This survey is for people who work as VET teachers, trainers or assessors, whether it is all of your job or just part of your job. The survey is one part of a major project.****Please respond only once. If you are sent the survey by more than one provider of professional development (PD), please respond only to the first invitation.****So that we can draw appropriate conclusions from our data, please respond only if both of the following apply to you: you currently teach, train or assess in VET; and you have participated in a professional development activity in 2016 offered by the Australian Council for Private Education and Training (ACPET), VET Development Centre, or Velg Training. So, the first two questions are to establish your eligibility.**\* 1. Do you teach, train or assess in the VET sector? Yes  No*If ‘Yes’ progress to Q2; if ‘No’ progress to ‘Thank you for your interest’ section (p. 4).*\* 2. In 2016, have you participated in a PD event mounted by ACPET, VET Development Centre or Velg Training? Yes  No*If ‘Yes’ progress to Q3 (p. 5); if ‘No’ progress to ‘Thank you for your interest’ section (p. 4).* |

|  |
| --- |
| **Survey of VET teachers/trainers/assessors about professional development.** |
| Thank you for your interest |
| **Thank you very much for beginning to answer our survey; however as you have not answered “Yes” to this question, it means that you do not fall within the scope of the survey.****We would like to thank you for your interest, and if you would like to find out more about the research project, please visit the project web site, which is updated at regular intervals:** [**http://federation.edu.au/research-vet-quality**](http://federation.edu.au/research-vet-quality)*END OF SURVEY FOR INELIGIBLE RESPONDENTS* |

|  |
| --- |
| **Survey of VET teachers/trainers/assessors about professional development.** |
| About you |
| \* 3. What is your age group? *Select one only* 20-29 years 30-39 years 40-49 years 50-59 years 60 years or more* 4. What is your gender? *Select one only*

 Male  Female Prefer not to identify* 5. What is the total number of years you have been in the VET workforce as a teacher/trainer? *Select one only (Include all years spent in such a role, even if not continuous)*

 Up to two years 2-4 years 5-9 years 10-19 years 20 years or more |

\* 6. What is the main industry/discipline area in which you teach/train? *Please select one option that best describes your industry/discipline area.*

 Agriculture and animals  Arts, media and culture

 Business, financial services and IT  Community services

 Construction and property (including electrical)

 Foundation skills, English language, general studies, and TAE (Training and Assessment)  Health and fitness

 Manufacturing and automotive

 Transport, infrastructure, safety and resources  Wholesale, retail and personal services

* 7. In which state/territory do you live?



* 8. Would you describe your home location as: *Select one only*

 Metropolitan?  Regional city?  Rural or remote?

* 9. Thinking about the RTO or other organisation for whom you do most of your work as a VET teacher, trainer or assessor, is this organisation: *Select one only*

 A public RTO (TAFE) including dual sector university?  A private RTO?

 A non-profit community RTO?  A school?

 I am participating as an individual Other (please state)

\* 10. Thinking of the same RTO or other organisation, is your position with your RTO: *Select one only*

 Permanent/ongoing full-time?  Permanent/ongoing part-time?  Fixed-term contract full-time?  Fixed-term contract part-time?

 Sessional contract / Hourly Paid Instructor (HPI)?  Non-employed contractor?

Other (please state)

|  |
| --- |
| **Survey of VET teachers/trainers/assessors about professional development.** |
| Your qualifications |
| \* 11. What is your highest qualification overall? *(In any industry or discipline area; it could be unrelated to your current job.) Select one only* Certificate III (e.g. ‘trade’ certificate) Certificate IV (e.g. ‘post-trade’ qualification)  Diploma/Advanced Diploma VET Sector (Training Package) Grad Cert/Grad Dip  Higher Education Associate Degree/Bachelor’s Degree  Higher Education Grad Cert/Grad Dip Masters by Coursework or Research  Doctorate (PhD, EdD etc)* 12. What is your highest qualification in the main industry/discipline area in which you teach/train? *Select one only*

 Certificate III  Certificate IV Diploma/Advanced Diploma  Degree or above* 13. What is your highest qualification in VET/adult education teaching/training? *Select one only*

 Certificate IV TAE or earlier version, or skill set from Certificate IV  Diploma of VET or earlier version Degree or above* 14. Are you currently studying for a qualification?

 Yes  No*If ‘Yes’ progress to Q15; if ‘No’ progress to Q16 (p. 9).* |

|  |
| --- |
| **Survey of VET teachers/trainers/assessors about professional development.** |
| Your qualifications continued ... |
| \* 15. We are interested in what type of qualification you are currently studying. Please select all that apply, from the following list.A Higher Education qualification relating to the industry/discipline area in which you teach A VET sector qualification relating to the industry/discipline area in which you teachA Higher Education qualification relating to VET/adult education teaching/training A VET sector qualification relating to VET/adult education teaching/trainingA Higher Education qualification in some other subject area A VET sector qualification in some other subject area |

|  |
| --- |
| **Survey of VET teachers/trainers/assessors about professional development.** |
| Your professional development (PD) |
| **Note: In this section, 'by external PD event', we mean a formal activity, offered by an organisation external to your own employer, that was held at a specified date and time, and for which registration was required. The questions in the following section mostly ask about PD events in 2016.*** 16. Do you tend to participate in more internal (to your own organisation) or external PD events?

*Select one only* More internal events  More external events About the same number of events* 17. In 2016, approximately how many external PD events have you participated in?

 1 2 3 4 5-9 10-14 15-19 20+* 18. What was the predominant mode of delivery of the external PD events in which you participated?

*Select one only* More were face-to-face  More were webinars About the same of each type |

* 19. Thinking about face-to-face seminars/workshops and webinars, do you prefer face-to-face or webinars? *Select one only*

 Face-to-face  Webinars  Unsure

Please give a reason, if you wish, for your preference:

* 20. Which external providers of VET-related PD hosted the 2016 external PD events in which you have participated? *Select all that apply*

ACPET

VET Development Centre Velg Training

Other

# In the next two questions, we are going to ask you about PD events you have attended and whether they relate to the industry area in which you teach, or to the VET sector.

\* 21. In 2016, what proportion of external PD events in which you participated were focused on your industry/discipline area, if you have an industry area in which you teach (e.g. plumbing, community services)? *Select one only.*

Do not include events focused on teaching in your industry area, only the industry itself. Put 'Not applicable' if you do not have a specific industry area in which you teach; for example, if you only teach TAE.

 All  Most

 About half  Some

 None

Not applicable

\* 22. In 2016, what proportion of external PD events in which you participated were about the VET sector?

*Select one only*

 All  Most

 About half  Some

 None

\* 23. Of these external PD events about the VET sector, were these predominantly: *Select one only*

 About teaching, training and assessment?

 About RTO management systems and compliance?

 About other general VET sector issues/matters (e.g. changes in policy)?

Other

*If ‘About teaching, training and assessment’ progress to Q24; all other responses progress to Q25.*

|  |
| --- |
| **Survey of VET teachers/trainers/assessors about professional development.** |
| Your professional development continued ... |
| \* 24. Of the external PD events about teaching, training and assessment in the VET sector, were these:*Select one only* Predominantly about teaching and training?  Predominantly about assessment? |

|  |
| --- |
| **Survey of VET teachers/trainers/assessors about professional development.** |
| About a particular PD event: |
| Think about one particular PD event in which you participated in 2016. For this question, the PD event must have been mounted by either ACPET, VET Development Centre or Velg Training. One of these providers sent you this survey link.* 25. With which external PD provider was the particular PD event? *Select one only*

 ACPET VET Development Centre  Velg Training* 26. Thinking about that particular PD event, please select the option that best describes the topic of the PD event. *Select one only*

 Quality, Compliance and Auditing  Assessment Essentials Mapping and Validation  Digital Innovation Teaching and Learning Strategies  Personal and Business Development Industry Engagement Training Delivery  Marketing Multiple categories  Other (please specify) |

\* 27. What was the mode of delivery for this PD event? *Select one only*

 Seminar/workshop  Conference

 Other face-to-face  Webinar

 Online module

 Other (please specify)

* 28. What were your two main reasons for participating in this PD event? *(most important reason first)*

1.

2.

* 29. What were the two most important things that you learned? *(most important thing first)*

1.

2.

* 30. How valuable did you find this PD event? *Select one only*

 Very valuable

 Somewhat valuable  Not very valuable

* 31. Was this PD event pitched at the right level for you? *Select one only*

 Too difficult/too high a level  At about the right level

 Too easy/too low a level

* 32. What was the main benefit for you in participating in this PD event?

|  |
| --- |
| **Survey of VET teachers/trainers/assessors about professional development.** |
| Your PD wish list |
| * 33. Thinking of a PD event that you believe would be most valuable for you in the future, what would its content be? (e.g. 'Dealing with challenging situations and students') *Choose one topic only.*
* 34. What would its mode of delivery be? *Select one only*

 Seminar/workshop  Conference Other face-to-face  Webinar Online module Other (please give details)* 35. Thinking of a PD event that you believe would be most valuable for colleagues from your RTO in the future, what would its content be? *Choose one topic only.*
* 36. What would its mode of delivery be? *Select one only*

 Seminar/workshop  Conference Other face-to-face  Webinar Online module Other (please give details) |

|  |
| --- |
| **Survey of VET teachers/trainers/assessors about professional development.** |
| Prize draw and counselling information |
| **Congratulations and thank you! You have now finished the survey.****If you would like to enter the prize draw for one of two $100 gift vouchers, please enter your email address below. You may be assured that this information will be kept separate from your survey responses.****If anything upsets you during the research you may wish to seek counselling through your organisation’s Employee Assistance Program, if there is one at your workplace, or you may wish to phone Lifeline on 131114.****If you have any questions, or you would like further information regarding the project titled *Would more highly-qualified teachers and trainers help to address quality problems in the Australian vocational education and training system?,* please contact the Principal Researcher, Erica Smith, School of Education, at (03) 5327 9665, or** **e.smith@federation.edu.au****Further information regarding this project is also available at the following** [**http://federation.edu.au/research-vet-quality**](http://federation.edu.au/research-vet-quality)37. Your email address for gift voucher prize draw (voluntary) |