

**ACE-VET linkages: Provider, student and industry views**

**John Saunders**

**National Centre for Vocational Education Research  
Adelaide**

In recent years there has been a broadening of the range of learning offered by Adult and Community Education (ACE) to include vocational learning as well as the hobby, enrichment and personal development programs traditionally provided in the past. This paper reports on an NCVET study which surveyed the opinions of ACE providers, ACE students and industry organisations regarding ACE VET and its linkage with mainstream VET (predominantly TAFE). Issues discussed in the paper include:

- identification of characteristics which distinguish ACE VET from mainstream VET
- mainstream VET sector awareness of ACE VET and linkages with mainstream VET
- current availability of linkages between ACE VET and mainstream VET, and ways of improving them
- vocational training needs ACE might address
- interaction between the ACE and mainstream VET sectors
- whether ACE VET should complement or compete with mainstream VET.