

## **Technology an empowering tool for learning**

**Linda Smart and Ben Fennessy  
Victoria**

*“Develop new ways for learners to increase their opportunities and capacities to fully participate in the learning age”.*

This presentation is divided into three sections; however, all three are linked together to form our development philosophy.

The research – identify how technology is currently impacting on our lives. It will discuss the importance of evaluating technological tool against existing principles applied to learning. It draws on research that identifies how and why adults choose to access online and multimedia options for learning and the implications for educators. There is an imperative for the education sector to take control of the technological opportunities available now and in the future to establish best practice principles around accessibility and useability. We must prepare learners for this cultural change.

The learner-centred development cycle – the development cycle is designed to benefit the learner. The products developed will be based around specific analysis on learner characteristics identifying their motivation, context and appropriate delivery formats. The development cycle ensures products reflect a partnership between the learner, the developer and the teaching area. This learner-centred model engages and involves learners in the development process and will lead to increased suitability of resources for independent learning and increase the useability of the resources for learners and teachers. This model will produce opportunities for learners to engage more fully with their learning by providing effective tailored and creative flexible resources.

The developer's kit – we will showcase the developer's kit developed by TAFE frontiers. The kit is based on a set of principles for developing resources in print, multimedia and on-line. It is an integral part of the development cycle.