

ENHANCING THE RETENTION OF YOUNG PEOPLE TO YEAR 12, ESPECIALLY THROUGH VOCATIONAL SKILLS

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THE RESEARCH

- A project emanating from the 2008 National Forum on key issues and future directions in vocational skills for youth
- Managed by the Australian College of Educators in association with TAFE Directors Australia
- Funded by DEEWR

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THE CONTEXT: THE COAG AGENDA

- The Compact with Young Australians
- National Youth Participation Requirement
- Measuring success through retention to Year 12 or equivalent and transition to further education or employment

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RESEARCH QUESTIONS

1. What characteristics of vocational programs in secondary schools, TAFE institutes and vocational colleges are critical for the successful engagement, retention and transition of 15 to 19 year olds to further education or employment
2. What are the relationships among the characteristics and how are such relationships influenced by different educational settings, contexts and models of program delivery?
3. In what ways are these characteristics particular to educational settings, contexts and different models of program delivery?

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METHOD AND SAMPLE

- Qualitative study using semi-structured focus group interviews and document analysis
- Development of a framework against which programs for 15 to 19 year old can be evaluated
- Development of 10 case studies drawn from a range of programs delivered by 3 secondary schools, 3 TAFE institutes, 1 community-based vocational college, 2 vocational colleges within TAFE institutes
- Informants include program coordinators, teachers, support staff and external stakeholders (eg. industry, community)

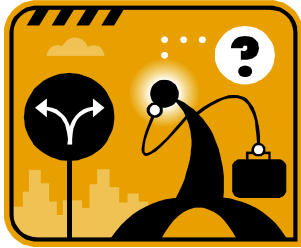
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EVALUATIVE FRAMEWORK

- Targeted and tailored information
- Effective monitoring
- Quality teaching
- Coordinated support
- Development of strong student connections
- Organisational leadership

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EARLY FINDINGS



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