

PAPER:

***WHAT'S HAPPENING WITH VET IN
SENIOR SECONDARY SCHOOLS?***

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Abstract:

The Commonwealth Government is preparing arrangements to bring about a focus on Apprenticeships and Traineeships in secondary schooling, related to endorsed national competency standards that lead to a vocational credential within the Australian Qualifications Framework (AQF). At the same time, responses received in the recent review of the Higher School Certificate (HSC) in NSW expressed overwhelming support for extending and strengthening vocational studies through the HSC.

DEETYA's School to Work section has funded research which is investigating the models used to integrate accredited vocational education and training (VET) curriculum, structured workplace training and general education within a number of senior secondary schools throughout Australia. Such schools are already breaking new ground in the provision of entry level training to senior secondary students.

The project has identified commonalities and differences, key elements of good practice and possible transferability to mainstream practice. The paper will outline the good practice and related issues investigated within eight sites, in each state and territory of Australia. Significantly, the project employed process benchmarking as its primary methodology and this will be explored in the paper in order to answer a number of the questions posed in the conference outline; especially in what ways can research develop collaborative structures to support multiple interests of researchers? and in what ways can research meet the diverse needs of research clients.