

Mapping VET Research : towards a new agenda

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Since Rod McDonald and his colleagues at University of Technology, Sydney released their well-known report on the state of VET research in 1993 (“No Small Change”), there has been a profound change in the VET research landscape. Four national VET research centres have been established and the funding of VET research has been put onto a national footing with the establishment of ANTARAC and its successor, the National Research and Evaluation Strategy attempted for the first time to scope the extent of VET research as a field and to set broad national priorities for research activity over the next three years. In 2000, the national research strategy is due for review. It is timely, therefore, to assess where we have come from in VET research and where we might be heading. This paper will explore the possibilities for a truly national research agenda in VET and the fundamental questions that such an agenda should address. The paper will also consider Australia’s role in international VET research and discuss the potential for mapping a global research agenda for vocational education.