The seductive hope of educational work

Merilvn Childs National Centre for Critical Social Pedagogy (NCCriSP) University of Western Sydney

When educators talk about the changing nature of work, it is common for them to think about these changes as happening to other industries, and to other people. However, the changing nature of work has important consequences for educational workers, and has serious implications for VET policy and practices.

In this paper, I draw on insights developed during a four year long research project with adult educators living and working in the Greater Western Suburbs (Sydney), during which I developed knowledge and understanding of the phenomenon of educational work in the 1990s. I critically examine one aspect of this research by contrasting the lived experience of educational workers with the ideal image of the Model Adult Educator. I consider the implications this aspect of the research has for

- the development of courageous conversations at, and about, educational work 'at the bottom' of the Open Training Market
- enlightened management practices and systemic reforms

Conference theme: The changing nature of work-implications for VET policy and practice

Key words: changing nature of work, casualisation, routinisation, educational workers, organisational learning and development

Contact details:

2000 Conference

Merilyn Childs SCOS **UWS** Nepean PO Box 10 Kingswood NSW 2747 Ph: 02 96787610 Email: m.childs@uws.edu.au