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Life in amaze of documents:
Victorian Skills Reform and the trail of texts.

The impacts on individual teachers within the system

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Who I am

David McLean

- •Senior Educator @ Kangan Batman TAFE
- •Printing & Graphic Arts (Multimedia)
- •Interactive Digital Media
- •Victorian Certificate of Applied Learning (VCAL)

Qualifications

- •Currently enrolled in PhD Work and Learning Studies @ Monash
- •Masters in Work and Learning Studies
- •BA Media Studies Edith Cowan

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My Study

Research Method

- •Institutional Ethnography (IE) as Developed by Dorothy E. Smith
- •Focuses on the every day work that people do and how that is organised and restructured via texts
- •Also considers how a single text can influence multiple work places in different locations (the Translocal)

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Institutional Ethnography

IE Method & Data Collection

- •Identify and describe a 'problematic".
- •Something has happened, how has it occurred? What changes has it made to the way people work?
- •Interviews and conversations with practitioners about their work while looking for texts that organise.
- •Follow and map the trail of texts

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Key text

Victorian Vet Policy

Jobs for Your Future: Skills for Victoria

People and Place of work

Victorian TAFE Teachers & Senior Educators

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Questions

What new and additional texts have changed the work of teachers in one Victorian TAFE institute since the introduction of Skills Reform?

How was the policy introduced to the Institute and the texts developed?

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Victorian Skills Reform

Funding

- •Decreased fees for Cert III & Below (staged implementation)
- •Increase in fees for Diploma & above (staged implementation)
- •Students can only get govt subsidy for a qualification higher than they have already obtained.

 •If you have a Diploma and want another one in a different field you
- will have to pay full fees (\$6K to \$10K)
- •Student loans via VET Fee Help •Removal of training priorities

Contestability

- •All state government funding will be open to both public and private
- providers (staged from July1st 2009 onwards)
 •TAFEs will eventually receive no fixed funding and will have to openly compete with the Private Sector.
- •Is there unlimited funds and infinite demand?

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Linear Pathways

Students are encouraged to follow a linear course pathway as they are only eligible for government fee subsides for the next highest AQF qualification they want to achieve.

If you currently hold a Diploma and wish to obtain a Cert IV to compliment it, you will have to pay full

- 1.Possible challenge to ethic of life long learning
- 2. Possible reduction of repeat business on the VET

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What is driving research?

IE has significant potential for this project as the every day work of TAFE teachers & administrators is about to undergo significant change.

IE looks at how change has occurred when those most affected by change were not aware of the change.

IE also recognises how change is structured and communicated through texts, and how texts are interconnected through a mapped hierarchy.

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Maps of texts

Mapping texts is key to undertaking an IE. Maps make up a significant part of the data collection and analysis.

The maps for this paper were created from following and recording the sequence of events that lead to implementation of the first stage of Skills Reform in a large TAFE institute.

A very small sample of the texts used in creating the maps follow.

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