AVETRA welcomes

The Centre for Vocational and Educational Policy within the Melbourne Graduate School of Education

The Centre was launched by Victorian Minister for Training and Skills, Steve Herbert, on Friday, 6 November 2015.

Led by the highly respected Professor John Polesel, the new research centre within the Melbourne Graduate School of Education is one of the few research hubs in the world producing evidence-based analysis and policy advice in the field of education transitions and VET quality.

The Centre also has a particular focus on learning outcomes for disengaged young people. The Centre has hit the ground running and is working closely with industry and governments across Australia to address the issues of poor transitions, especially for the most disadvantaged young people.

The Centre is currently working with the Victorian Department of Education and Training and the LH Martin Institute on a project aimed at identifying the types of capabilities teachers need to help students reach their full potential. It is also working with the NSW Department of Education to identify potential policy interventions to increase the number of young people completing higher level VET qualifications, such as diplomas and advanced diplomas.

‘Collaboration and knowledge growth’ are critical now that regulatory and funding reform of the VET sector is clearly on Federal and State Government agendas. We also know that people are at greatest risk when they move from one education or employment phase in their life to the next, for example when they leave school to enter training or re-train for a new job. But Australia’s stressed vocational training systems are buckling under growing pressure to solve problems spanning the entire labour market’, said Professor Polesel.

The Victorian Minister for Training and Skills, Steve Herbert, welcomed the Centre’s establishment, saying, ‘I am excited to launch this new research centre which should provide valuable new insights about school and transitions to higher education, training and employment. Strong research to underpin Government programs and decision making is vital in our promise to address youth unemployment and disengagement in Victoria.’ The Australian Higher Education Supplement (10 November 2015) has described the launch of the Centre as ‘oh-so-timely’ and predicted that the Centre will “fill the massive policy and analysis blackhole” in these important policy areas.