

Identifying VET initial teacher education pathways for industry experts

Meeting the future workforce needs of in-demand industries requires delivery of high-quality Vocational Education and Training (VET) and Design Technology (DT) subjects in schools. High quality teaching in these learning areas is best taught by industry experts who are qualified to teach in secondary school contexts.

Currently, there is a distinct lack of practical pathways for tradespeople and other vocationally qualified and industry experienced experts to complete Initial Teacher Education (ITE) programs which have a specialisation in VET and DT teaching methods.

La Trobe researchers Dr [Rochelle Fogelgarn](#) and Dr [Jacolyn Weller](#), in collaboration with Dr Karen O'Reilly-Briggs from Box Hill Institute, made a submission to the federal parliamentary Inquiry into the perceptions and status of VET.

The researchers were subsequently called as witnesses to the public hearing of this inquiry which resulted in Recommendation 11 of the Shared vision, equal pathways (2024) report "to establish 'Additional ITE programs which focus on enabling industry experts to become qualified VET ... educators ... [for] secondary school students (VETDSSS), including 'fast track' programs where appropriate".

With industry support funding from the Vernier Foundation and Manufacturing Skills Australia, the researchers are collecting data on the value of an ITE qualification from the perspectives of industry experts who want to pass on their knowledge and skills to school students and from school leaders who are impacted by the severe shortage of qualified VET and DT teachers.

Empirical evidence is being collected to quantify the extent of the VET and DT teacher shortage in Victorian secondary schools and the associated impact on students, staff, and vocational program sustainability. Based on this evidence, possible solutions will be developed to enable industry experts to access customised ITE which will benefit secondary school students and help resolve the issue of VET and DT teacher shortages.

Read more about the context of this research: iier.org.au/iier34/fogelgarn.pdf