ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Organising Committee is grateful to the following, who at the time of printing have given their support in many different ways:

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WHAT IS AVETRA?

AVETRA is Australia’s only national, independent association of researchers in vocational education and training (VET). It was established in 1997 with initial financial assistance from the Australian National Training Authority Research Advisory Council and receives support from the National Centre for Vocational Education Research (NCVER).

The Australian Vocational Education and Training Research Association (AVETRA) aims to promote quality VET research, build capacity to undertake VET research and evaluation, and provide opportunities to exchange information and ideas. VET research may be on a small or large scale, for the purposes of policy development, to improve teaching and assessment practices or to discover which partnerships, programs and services best meet the needs of individuals, communities and enterprises. AVETRA members include TAFE and university-based researchers, training managers, VET trainers and managers, and VET decision-makers.

With a substantial membership, it is committed to:

- furthering the contribution of VET research to the development of Australian VET policy
- independently reviewing VET research priorities
- promoting independent and significant research in VET, with due regard for the intellectual property rights of researchers
- raising the profile of VET research in the academic and training communities
- promoting training in research methods for those working in or with the VET sector
- providing platforms for the dissemination of research findings
INVITATION

This is an invitation to all of those interested in vocational and adult education to attend the 17th AVETRA annual Conference on the Gold Coast, Australia from 22 – 24 April 2014, whose theme is: Informing changes in VET policy and practice: The central role of research

THEME: Informing changes in VET policy and practice: The central role of research

Vocational education and training (VET) has long been subject to change, transformations and uncertainty. In Australia, it sits uneasily between state and territory administration and federal mandates, is ordered by interests outside of it and positioned obliquely between compulsory and higher education. Moreover, its diverse students, educational purposes and reach into varied communities and sites of enactment in a range of institutions, including schools, workplaces, colleges, community halls and through virtual media adds other and dynamic dimensions to its form. Given all of this diversity and complexity, there is likely no other education sector whose provisions, policies and practices are more deserving of these changes and transformations being informed by inquiry and practical research. Certainly, mistakes in the past and their subsequent rehearsal suggest that changes being enacted at both federal and state/territory levels emphasise the need for decision-making to be informed by the outcomes of research that can offer clarity and innovative ways forward.

However, decision-making about VET at all levels is not always so informed, nor is research necessarily welcomed, except when boosting decisions already made. Yet, government, like all VET stakeholders, deserve to be cognizant of factors impacting those changes and the consequences and implications shaping the realisation of their goals. It follows, that VET researchers have an obligation to perform their work diligently, carefully and engage in activities that attempt to inform the broad base of stakeholders who make decisions about how learning and training opportunities will be developed, organised and enacted. We are obliged to play this role actively and responsibly, given the relative independence of our voice.

Consequently, this Conference seeks to engage with and contribute to current and continuing debates and practices through plenaries, symposiums and poster sessions that highlight the range of informed inquiry about VET and its significance for those whose decision-making is central to the intentions for and design and enactment of VET policy and practice. The contributions of the Conference will aim to report the process and outcomes of informed inquiry and also advance findings and conclusions that can advise the decision-making of those who teach and learn, engage with and support VET provisions in all its settings, and who have responsibilities for the ordering and funding of those experiences (i.e. law and policy makers and administrators), and thereby contribute to the democratic fabric.

LOCATION

In 2014, AVETRA will welcome you to the Gold Coast, which boasts one of the longest strips of pristine beach in the world. It is surrounded by lush hinterland ranges, and enjoys a diverse range of activities that are equalled by few other places. We invite you to join us and discover the 40 championship golf courses, 100,000 hectares of national parks and reserves plus World Heritage listed rainforests, 500 kilometers of canals and more than 600 restaurants and cafes, all within 40 minutes drive of each other. The Gold Coast also abounds with theme parks and Queensland’s largest shopping centre.

For more information on things to do and see in Surfers Paradise and the Gold Coast, please visit www.visitgoldcoast.com.

Outrigger Surfers Paradise – Gold Coast
22 View Avenue, Surfers Paradise, QLD, 4217, Australia
Ph: +61-7-5579-1000 | www.outrigger.com.au

At Outrigger Surfers Paradise, the entire Gold Coast experience is at your doorstep. Just one block away you are in the heart of shopping, dining and entertainment hotspots found on Cavill and Orchid Avenues. The endless sandy beach is only a minute down the road, and there are daily shuttles to all theme and entertainment parks to make the whole family smile. The hotel’s swimming pools and tennis courts provide you with a bit of R+R after a long conference day.

CONFERENCE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
- Michele Simons – President AVETRA, University of Western Sydney, NSW
- Kevin Heyes – Treasurer and Public Officer AVETRA, TAFE NSW, South Western Sydney Institute, NSW
- Sarojni Choy – Conference Co-Convenor, Griffith University, QLD
- Stephen Billet – Conference Co-Convenor, Griffith University, QLD
- Ann Kelly – Griffith University, QLD
- Mark Tyler – Griffith University, QLD
- Ray Smith – Griffith University, QLD
- Darryl Dymock – Griffith University, QLD
- Bobby Harreveld – University of Central Queensland, QLD
- Janine Schubert – Department of Education, Training and Employment, QLD
- Angela Ferguson – Department of Education, Training and Employment, QLD
- Rebecca Libke – Department of Education, Training and Employment, QLD
- Jamie Griffiths – Gold Coast Institute of TAFE, QLD
- Peter Skippington – Education and training consultant, QLD

CONFERENCE SECRETARIAT
For all enquiries please contact:
AVETRA 2014 Conference Secretariat
C/- The Association Specialists Pty Ltd
PO Box 576, Crows Nest NSW 1585 AUSTRALIA
Tel: +61 2 9431 8600
Fax: +61 2 9431 8677
Email: avetra2014@theassociationspecialists.com.au
The AVETRA 2014 Conference will be held over two full days on Wednesday, 23 April and Thursday, 24 April 2014, with additional pre-Conference workshops on Tuesday, 22 April 2014 from 2.00 – 5.30 pm. We invite you to join us for the Welcome Reception hosted at the Gold Coast Institute of TAFE (GCIT) on Tuesday, 22 April 2014 and for the Gala Dinner at 7.00 pm on Wednesday, 23 April 2013 which will be held at Outrigger Surfers Paradise. Please note that Gala Dinner tickets are not included in the registration fee.

The provisional program is set out below.

### Wednesday, 23 April 2014 – Conference Day 1

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8.00 – 8.30 am</td>
<td>Registration and Arrival Tea &amp; Coffee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8.30 – 8.45 am</td>
<td>Welcome and Conference Opening</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8.45 – 8.50 am</td>
<td>Welcome to Country</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8.50 – 10.00 am</td>
<td>Keynote Speaker <strong>Tom Bailey</strong>, Columbia University, USA Introduction, Presentation, Q&amp;A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10.00 – 10.25 am</td>
<td>Morning Tea – Visit the sponsored trade displays</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10.30 – 12.45 pm</td>
<td>Concurrent Sessions 1 to 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12.45 – 1.30 pm</td>
<td>Lunch – Visit the sponsored trade displays</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.30 – 2.20 pm</td>
<td>Keynote Speaker <strong>Soon Joo Gog</strong>, Institute for Adult Learning, Singapore Introduction, Presentation, Q&amp;A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.25 – 3.30 pm</td>
<td>Concurrent Sessions 5 to 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.30 – 3.45 pm</td>
<td>Afternoon Tea – Visit the sponsored trade displays</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.45 – 4.50 pm</td>
<td>Concurrent Sessions 7 to 8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.00 – 6.00 pm</td>
<td>AVETRA AGM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.00 – 11.00 pm</td>
<td>Gala Dinner</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Thursday, 24 April 2014 – Conference Day 2

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8.00 – 8.30 am</td>
<td>Registration and Arrival Tea &amp; Coffee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8.30 – 8.45 am</td>
<td>Welcome</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8.45 – 9.45 am</td>
<td>Keynote Speaker <strong>Erica Smith</strong>, Ballarat University, VIC Introduction, Presentation, Q&amp;A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9.50 – 10.20 am</td>
<td>Concurrent Sessions 9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10.20 – 10.50 am</td>
<td>Morning Tea – Visit the sponsored trade displays</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10.50 – 12.00 pm</td>
<td>Concurrent Sessions 10 to 11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12.00 – 1.00 pm</td>
<td>Lunch – Visit the sponsored trade displays</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.00 – 2.40 pm</td>
<td>Concurrent Sessions 12 to 14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.40 – 3.10 pm</td>
<td>Afternoon Tea – Visit the sponsored trade displays</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.10 – 3.45 pm</td>
<td>Panel Session Introduction, Panel Discussion, Q+A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.45 – 4.15 pm</td>
<td>Closing Talk from <strong>Rod Camm</strong>, National Centre for Vocational Education Research</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.15 – 4.30 pm</td>
<td>Conference Close – Invitation to 2015 Conference</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
KEYNOTE AND INVITED SPEAKERS

The AVETRA 2014 Conference Executive Committee are pleased to welcome the participation of the following keynote and invited speakers confirmed to date:

Professor Thomas Bailey

Teachers College, Columbia University, New York, USA

Thomas Bailey is the George and Abby O’Neill Professor of Economics and Education at Teachers College, Columbia University, New York. Since 1996, he has been the Director of the Community College Research Center (CCRC). He is also the Director of the Center for Analysis of Postsecondary Education and Employment (CAPSEE), established in 2011 and funded by the Institute for Education Sciences, US Department of Education. He is an AERA Fellow and member of the National Academy of Education. He holds a PhD in economics from MIT with specialties in education, labor economics, and econometrics.

Post compulsory education in the United States has undergone significant changes in the last 15 years. Yet, post-secondary institutions have attracted significant criticisms about cost, graduation rates and inequities. Moreover, US policy makers are troubled that the US no longer leads the world in the share of its population holding post-secondary credentials. This combination of developments and anxieties has led to a “completion agenda” advocated by the federal government focused on increasing the number of post-secondary credentials. This keynote speech discusses how the non-university vocational education system has been influenced by these agendas and their positive and negative effects. Yet, whilst criticized for preparing students for jobs that do not exist or are paid too little to justify the educational cost, it is also seen to offer routes to increased completion, and offers examples of well organized effective education. However, the system remains highly varied in quality and large variations in cooperation and coordination with employers. No effective national framework exists for guiding and for coordination with employers or state-level activities and teachers.

Dr Soon Joo Gog

Institute for Adult Learning, Singapore

Dr Soon Joo Gog is the Executive Director of the Institute for Adult Learning (IAL) in Singapore. As head of IAL, she is responsible for developing the Institute into a national centre of excellence in learning, practice and research for continuing education and training (CET). Soon Joo holds an economic degree from the University of London, Master in Tourism Administration from the George Washington University, and Doctor of Education from the Institute of Education (University of London) and National Institute of Education (Singapore Nanyang Technological University).

In her presentation, Soon Joo will be sharing aspects of Singapore’s experience in building research capability in the CET sector. The presentation will focus on the challenges in developing local researchers, developing researchly-dispositions among policymakers and practitioners, and ensuring research outcomes inform policy and practice. The issues and challenges confronting workforce and economic development, and the role of CET will be also discussed.

Professor Erica Smith

University of Ballarat, VIC

Erica Smith holds a Personal Chair in Vocational Education and Training at the University of Ballarat. She has published widely, mainly in the area of training policy, apprenticeships and traineeships, enterprise training, and vocational education and training (VET) practitioners. She has previously worked as a human resource manager, in community work, and, in the VET sector, as a TAFE teacher, an RTO manager, and as manager of a State Industry Training Advisory Board.

Erica is co-chair of INAP, the international network for apprenticeship research, and is convenor of AVETRA's experienced researcher group. She has been invited to contribute to a range of national and international consultations. Erica’s keynote speech will examine the expectations placed upon apprenticeship systems, particularly in the wake of the Global Financial Crisis, and query whether apprenticeships can deliver what is expected of them. Her address will be based on a series of research projects in Australia and internationally.

Rod Camm

Managing Director, National Centre for Vocational Education Research

Rod Camm took up the position of Managing Director, National Centre for Vocational Education Research in August 2013. Prior to this position he held senior appointments in Skills Queensland, Skills Tertiary and Non-State Education, Department of Education and Training, Construction Skills Queensland and a range of other executive roles in Government.

Rod has performed the role of director on a range of boards and is a fellow of the Australian Institute of Company Directors. He has a Bachelor of Business (Human Resource Management), Executive Masters of Public Administration and Associate Diploma (Industrial Relations).
PRE-CONFERENCE WORKSHOPS

Pre-Conference Workshops give the opportunity for people interested in a particular research-related VET-sector issue to engage in a relatively small group. For the 2014 Conference we wish to particularly use the workshops for both opportunities for personal development and professional development. The workshops will be held on the afternoon of Tuesday, 22 April 2014 at the Gold Coast Institute of TAFE. The tentative time is 2:00 – 5:00 pm, and the workshops will be followed by the Conference Welcome Reception at 6:00 pm. A cost contribution of $50 per person and a minimum of 10 attendees for each workshop are required. Full workshop details will be published shortly.

SOCIAL EVENTS

WELCOME RECEPTION
Venue: Gold Coast Institute of TAFE
Date: Tuesday, 22 April 2014
Time: 6.00 – 8.00 pm
Cost: Included in your registration fee

CONFERENCE GALA DINNER
Venue: Boulevard Ballroom, Outrigger Surfers Paradise
Date: Wednesday, 23 April 2014
Time: 7.00 – 11.00 pm
Cost: $100.00 per person

We hope all delegates and their guests will join us on this occasion to make it a memorable evening. This is an opportunity to catch up with friends, colleagues and acquaintances and meet new people.

ACCOMMODATION

Accommodation has been reserved at Outrigger Hotel Surfers Paradise for Conference attendees. Please note that the rate provided is per room per night (room only) and includes GST – however only bookings through the AVETRA 2014 Conference Secretariat will obtain these rates. Full prepayment is required at the time of booking however you are able to amend or cancel your booking until 30 days before the Conference. Your deposit/balance will be returned at this stage. Any cancellation within 30 days of arrival is subject to 100% cancellation fee. Kindly note that any unsold rooms will be released on 20 March 2014 and accommodation requests received thereafter are strictly on availability basis only.

City View Twin Room $135 per night (room only)
Ocean View King Room $155 per night (room only)
Ocean View Twin Room $155 per night (room only)

Full buffet breakfast is available at $20 per person.

Accommodation Cancellation:
• All cancellations and alterations to accommodation bookings must be made in writing to the AVETRA 2014 Conference Secretariat.
• Cancellation on or after 20 March 2014: Guests will be required to pay 100% of the total accommodation charges.
• Alterations or cancellation of your accommodation booking are possible at no cost until 19 March 2014.
**GENERAL INFORMATION**

**AIR TRAVEL**
For the best airfares to the Gold Coast please book online at:
- www.virginaustralia.com
- www.qantas.com.au
- www.jetstar.com

**CREDIT CARDS**
Credit cards accepted for online registration are MasterCard, AMEX and Visa. Most Gold Coast hotels, restaurants and shops will accept all major credit cards.

**DISCLAIMER OF LIABILITY**
The Conference Executive Committee, including the AVETRA 2014 Conference Secretariat, will not accept liability for damages of any nature sustained by participants or their accompanying persons or loss of or damage to their personal property as a result of the Conference or related events.

**GETTING THERE**

**COOLANGATTA AIRPORT**

**Gold Coast Tourist Shuttle**
- **Fee:** Adults $21.00 per person
  - Children 4 - 13 years $11.00 per person
- **Travel:** 90 minutes
- **Contact:** 1300 655 655 (reservation required)
This is not a direct service and will stop at other hotels along the journey which can increase travel time. Pre-booking is not required for arrivals from the airport to the hotel, but is required 24 hours prior to departure from the hotel.

**BRISBANE INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT**

**Taxi**
- **Fee:** Sedan (1–4 people) from $200.00
  - Maxi-taxi (1–10 people) from $249.00
- **Available:** 24 hours
- **Travel:** 75 minutes

**Airport Shuttle Bus**
- **Fee:** Adults $43.00 per person
  - Children 4 - 13 years $20.00 per person
- **Travel:** 90 minutes
- **Contact:** 1300 664 700 (reservation required)
This is not a direct service and will stop at other hotels along the journey which can increase travel time. Pre-booking is not required for arrivals from the airport to the hotel, but is required 24 hours prior to departure from the hotel.

**Public Transportation**
- **Available:** 24 hours
- **Travel:** 90 minutes
Public trains depart Brisbane Domestic & International terminals every 30 minutes to the Gold Coast. Please catch the APRX (Airport to Robina Express), disembark at Helensvale Station and proceed to the bus terminal. Catch bus #715 and disembark at Marina Mirage, in Main Beach, Please cross the road via the sky bridge and you have arrived at the hotel.

**GOODS & SERVICES TAX (GST)**
Please note that all prices quoted throughout this document (registration fees, accommodation, social events, etc) are inclusive of GST, and stated in Australian dollars.

**INSURANCE**
Registration fees do not include insurance of any kind. It is strongly recommended that at the time you register for the Conference and book your travel, you take out an insurance policy of your choice. The AVETRA 2014 Conference Secretariat and/or the Executive Committee cannot take responsibility for any participant failing to arrange their own insurance. This insurance is to be purchased in your country of origin.

**MESSAGES**
A message board will be located next to the Registration Desk throughout the event.

**NAME BADGES**
All delegates will be given a name badge at registration. This badge will be the official pass to sessions, teas, lunches, the Welcome Reception and the Gala Dinner. It is necessary for delegates to wear their name badges at all times when onsite for security reasons.

**PRIVACY CLAUSE**
In registering for this Conference relevant details will be incorporated into a delegate list (name, organisation and state/country only, in accordance with Privacy Legislation) and may be made available to parties directly related to the Conference including AVETRA, Executive Committee, accommodation providers (for the purpose of room bookings only) and sponsors and exhibitors. A delegate list will be made available to all delegates a few days prior to the Conference. This information will also be added to a database for future Conferences. If you do not wish your details to be added to this database, please inform the AVETRA 2014 Conference Secretariat at the time of your online registration, or via email after registering.

**REGISTRATION DESK**
The Registration Desk will be located in the Level 2 Pre-Function Area of the Boulevard Ballroom, Outrigger Surfers Paradise. Staff at the Registration Desk will be happy to help with any queries.

**SMOKING POLICY**
There is a strict “no smoking” policy at Outrigger Surfers Paradise, and indeed throughout all public areas in QLD – smoking is only permitted in clearly marked areas.

**VISA FOR OVERSEAS PARTICIPANTS**
A visa is required to enter Australia, even if entering as a visitor only. Please apply for your visa online at www.immi.gov.au.
Some countries residents will require addressing their visa request to their Consulate or Embassy. If you require an invitation letter to help with the process, please contact the AVETRA 2014 Conference Secretariat via avetra2014@theassociationspeciliats.com.au and include your full name, position, affiliation, date of birth and passport number. Please note – an invitation letter will only be issued once payment of your registration to the Conference has been received.
Your registration fee includes:

**All Full Delegates**
- Entry to all Conference sessions
- Welcome tea and coffee, morning/afternoon teas and lunches during the Conference
- Welcome Reception
- Satchel
- Final Program and Abstract Book

**One Day Delegates**
- Entry to all Conference sessions on the day of registration
- Welcome tea and coffee, morning/afternoon tea and lunch on that day
- Welcome Reception
- Satchel
- Final Program and Abstract Book

The Welcome Reception is open to all delegates and guests. Tickets for the Conference Gala Dinner are available for all delegates and their guests to purchase at the rate of $100.00 per person.

### FEES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Before or on 1 March 2014</th>
<th>After 1 March 2014</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Full Conference</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>AVETRA Members</td>
<td>$700.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Non Members</td>
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<td>$1050.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Students*</td>
<td>$250.00</td>
<td>$280.00</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>One Day</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>AVETRA Members</td>
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<tr>
<td>Non Members</td>
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<td>$570.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Students*</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Workshop</strong></td>
<td>$50.00</td>
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~To become a member or renew your membership and benefit from the AVETRA member rate, please visit the membership section of the AVETRA website [www.avetra.org.au](http://www.avetra.org.au).

*Student registrations are for full time students only. A copy of the student identification is required with the completed registration form.

### ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Receipt of registration fees will be acknowledged via email with confirmation of your requirements according to your registration, together with a tax invoice receipt. **Bookings will only be considered as confirmed when payment is received.**

### REGISTRATION AND PAYMENT

- Register online at [www.avetra.org.au/annual-Conference](http://www.avetra.org.au/annual-Conference) to pay by credit card.
- Credit cards accepted are **Visa, MasterCard and American Express** (Diners is **NOT** accepted).

### CANCELLATION POLICY

All cancellations or alterations should be put in writing to the AVETRA 2014 Conference Secretariat.

**Conference Cancellation:**
- Before 1 February 2014 – $100.00 cancellation fee will apply.
- Between 1 February and 1 March 2014 – 50% of monies paid.
- From 2 March 2014 – no refund of monies paid.