The outline for presentation:

1. Explain the unique features of the national population of apprentices and trainee in providing a youth voice in the sustainability debate that is informed by parallel experiences of sustainability in workplaces and classrooms and by a strong focus on long term employment outcomes
2. Briefly describe the approach to and outcomes of the Gen Green research into apprentices and trainees experience of skills and sustainability from 2008 to 2012, including the partnership with WorldSkills Australia
3. Outline the aims of Gen Green 4 Australia: A National Study of the Demand for and Supply of Skills for Sustainability and describe how TAFE Directors can help with the recruitment strategy

Gen Green 2008 – 2012

The Gen Green 3 study captures apprentices' and trainees' experiences of skills and sustainability in workplaces and courses in 2012, building on the Gen Green 2008 and 2010 surveys conducted by Dusseldorp Skills Forum, in partnership with WorldSkills Australia. This longitudinal research series is unique in giving a voice on future skills needs to young people engaged in work and in training, a voice that can contribute to the policy debate about vocational education and sustainability.

The research indicates a step change in apprentices' and trainees' experience of skills for sustainability in work and training between 2008 and 2010, but no further significant change in the experience of these skills at work over the last 2 years. The research does indicate a further incremental increase in the experience of these skills in training courses. Cost is consistently indicated as the most widely experienced barrier to practicing these skills at work and the main driver for gaining these skills is a personal interesting sustainability, an interest that remains consistently high over the three surveys.

Gen Green 4 Australia

The first and main aim of this new national research is to ask apprentices and trainees enrolled in Australian TAFEs and their TAFE based trainers and teachers about student demand for sustainability related skills and the current supply of these skills. This is in order to understand the drivers of student demand and the capacity of the VET sector to meet this demand.

The second aim of this research is to test whether there is any difference between the responses of students and trainers in public and private VET institutes.

The third aim is to test whether an evidence base can be established to extrapolate the results of existing Gen Green research to a national population

These aims will be achieved using two survey instruments, one targeting apprentices and trainees enrolled at Australian TAFEs, the other targeting TAFE based trainers and teachers.

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