INTRODUCTION

TAFE Directors Australia (TDA) is the peak national body incorporated to represent Australia’s 61 government owned Technical and Further Education (TAFE) institutes and university TAFE divisions, and the Australia-Pacific Technical College (APTC).

Australia’s TAFE Institute network is the largest and most diverse tertiary education sector in Australia with more than 1000 campuses located across Central Business Districts (CBD), suburban, regional and remote locations, with many institutes offering further services throughout the Asia-Pacific and other offshore regions.

The core business of TDA is supporting our member institutes, leading the advocacy for quality skills in Australia, and managing a range of international education and training projects in cooperation with our institutes.

TAFE Directors Australia was established by TAFE directors in 1998. Our Mission is to provide national leadership in the TVET sector through:

- Advocacy
- Research
- Marketing & promotion
- National & international networks
- Business development.

Our strategic objectives can be summarised as follows:

- advance vocational education and training policy in Australia
- support policy development for improved outcomes for students – domestic and international
- lead the advocacy on funding
- promote and support TAFE Institutes as the foremost providers of quality skills training in Australia and abroad
- support, expand and where appropriate lead international networks and business opportunities for our members

In 2009, TDA relocated its National Secretariat to TAFE NSW - Sydney Institute (Ultimo campus).

TDA has extensive representation on national and international committees as well as partnerships with government agencies and non-government organisations throughout the world.
TDA INTERNATIONAL PARTNERSHIPS

TDA has formal associations with the following international organisations:

- World Federation of Colleges and Polytechnics
- China Education Association for International Exchange
- American Association of Community Colleges (USA)
- Government of Chile through BECAS Chile
- Mongolian Ministry of Education through the Agency of TVET
- New Zealand Institutes of Technology and Polytechnics
- Indonesian Ministry of Education and Culture
- Indonesia Ministry of Manpower and Transmigration
- India Ministry of Education and Ministry of Human Resource Development
- Taiwan Bureau of Employment and Vocational Training
- UNESCO – TDA is a designated coordinating centre for the UNEVOC network

TDA is also leading the development of the East Asia Network of TVET providers, in collaboration with the Republic of Korea. Member countries of this network are identified in the map below.
TDA INTERNATIONAL CAPABILITY

TDA has specific expertise in providing vocational training and education services in the following areas:

- High level strategic planning
- Training needs analysis; training systems and policy frameworks
- Curriculum and resource development
- Assessment and educational measurement
- Vocational education leadership training
- Capacity-building programs and workforce development
- Education and business study tours
- Student and teacher exchange programs
TDA INTERNATIONAL PROJECTS

TDA is currently managing a wide range of capacity building projects around the world. These projects are delivered with the direct support and involvement of our member institutes who are selected to participate based on formal Expressions of Interest against specified selection criteria. Below is a brief description of some of our current projects:

- **Analysis of TVET systems in five Commonwealth countries (2011 – current)**

  This project, commissioned by the Commonwealth Secretariat, analyses the current status of TVET systems in Kenya, The Gambia, Bangladesh, Jamaica and Papua New Guinea. The final report, including the results of a four day workshop in Mombasa, Kenya is due for publication in May 2013.

- **BECAS Chile scholarship program (2010 – current)**

  This project involves 18 of our TAFE institutes from across Australia which deliver one year vocational training programs to Chilean students selected by BECAS Chile. TDA manages the program on behalf of BECAS Chile and we currently have 140 students on full scholarships studying in Australia in the fields of aquaculture, food services, mining and tourism.

- **China Vocational Education Leadership Training (VELT) Program (2010 – current)**

  TDA is one of five international organisations which offer this program which is fully funded by the Peoples Republic of China. Since early 2010, over 160 vice principals and senior vocational leaders from China have completed this four week program in Australia. Sixteen of our TAFE institutes have provided mentoring, lectures and industry site visits as part of the program.


  Skills for a sustainable economy and environment are a high priority for our TAFE institutes and TDA has initiated two major projects to support their work. The China Green Skills conference was held in Beijing in October 2012 and the Australia/USA Green Skills Network is now in its second year of development with a recent study tour to Australia funded by the USA Department of Energy.

- **Indonesia capacity building and industry engagement (2011 – 2014)**

  In early 2012, TDA conducted of survey of the Indonesian Polytechnics to establish their current level of engagement with local industry and their priorities for future engagement. In November we conducted a similar survey of Australian and Indonesian businesses to determine their level of engagement with the vocational education and training sector and their workforce development priorities. This work will be further enhanced with Indonesian Mentoring programs in 2013 and 2014, similar to the China VELT program.
Kazakhstan partnerships program (2013)

Following a recent site visit to Kazakhstan, TDA is preparing an Expression of Interest for our 61 TAFE institutes inviting them to partner with six nominated technical training institutes. TDA will assess the applications and then nominate the successful institutes to Kasipkor Holdings, the Kazakh government agency responsible for international partnerships.

Mongolia partnerships program (2010 – current)

TDA signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Mongolian Government’s Agency of TVET in 2010. This was quickly followed up with an Australian government funded study tour to Australia for senior Mongolian vocational leaders and several visits to Mongolia by TDA representatives. In 2012, three partnership agreements were signed between TDA member institutes and local Mongolian technical institutes. These agreements have since been extended with additional training services provided to Oyu Tolgoi and its partner Rio Tinto. The partnerships are in the field of mining, construction, heavy equipment and medical technology. TDA continues to provide on-the-ground support and advice for all three partnerships.
CORPORATE DETAILS

Official name of organisation: TAFE Directors Australia Incorporated
Status of organisation: Association incorporated under the Associations Incorporation Act 1991
Australian Business Number: ABN 39 070 265 734
Postal Address: PO Box 707 Broadway NSW 2007
Secretariat office address: Turner Hall (Building B), Sydney Institute of TAFE, Mary Ann Street, Ultimo, New South Wales, Australia
Office telephone: +61 2 9217 3180
Office Fax: +61 9281 7335
Office email: memberservices@tda.edu.au
Accounts department email: accounts@tda.edu.au
Website: www.tda.edu.au

OUR CONTACT DETAILS

Postal Contact:
Peter Holden
Director, International Engagement & Business Development
TAFE Directors Australia - National Secretariat
PO Box 707 Broadway NSW 2007

Email address: Peter.Holden@tda.edu.au
Phone contact: +612 9217 3181 or +614 0508 1780
EXECUTIVE TEAM MEMBERS

MARTIN RIORDAN  
*Chief Executive Officer*

Martin Riordan is Chief Executive Officer of TAFE Directors Australia, the peak body representing Australian technical and further education (TAFE) institutes.

Martin was appointed as CEO to TDA in 2006, following executive appointments with the Federal Education Department in Canberra, and an extended posting in Singapore. He was a recipient team member for the Federal Department of Education Science and Training Award for Excellence in 2005.

Martin was awarded an Australian American Fulbright Professional Scholarship in 2009, to review financial models with non-government funding in the American Community College system. He holds a BA (Hons) undergraduate qualification from Macquarie University, and MBA from the University of Technology Sydney. Martin has enjoyed further study at TAFE Institutes: Asian language studies at Sydney Institute of TDA, and information technology at Canberra Institute of Technology.

PETER HOLDEN  
*Director, International Engagement & Business Development*

Peter commenced working with TDA in October 2009. After graduating with a Bachelor of Arts and Diploma of Education, he began his professional career as a high school teacher in Melbourne, Victoria. After a brief period as a community based adult literacy teacher, including a term as President of the national Australian Council for Adult Literacy, Peter joined the NSW TAFE sector in 1991. Since then he has held a wide range of senior business development and project management roles including national literacy initiatives, access and outreach programs, the national e-learning program *LearnScope*, the TAFE NSW Sydney 2000 Olympic Games Training Unit, TAFE Global, the NSW Centre for Learning Innovation and DET International.

Peter has been a guest lecturer at a number of universities, worked closely with industry groups and was a Board member for eleven years at his local community youth association. His international experience includes eighteen months in Athens, Greece as part of a small team developing workforce training plans and programs for the Athens 2004 Olympic Games, five months in the United Arab Emirates managing a school leadership program, and project management roles in PNG, Nigeria, Kenya and China.
PAM CAVEN  
Director, Policy & Stakeholder Engagement

Pam Caven took up the position of Director Policy & Stakeholder Engagement TAFE Directors Australia in May 2007. Pam’s career has been in education and training as a teacher in secondary schools, a lecturer in a teacher's college, a teacher in TAFE, a senior manager in State and Federal Government departments and an author.

Pam was a Project Director in the Victorian Department of Education and Training prior to moving to the Australian National Training Authority (ANTA) as Project Director. Post ANTA Pam managed a variety of projects and was engaged as an auditor for the Victorian Auditor General.

During her time at TDA Pam has drawn on input from members to develop formal TDA submissions to a range of Government and department inquiries and consultations. Pam has managed many significant national projects and is the director of the annual TDA National Conference.

LINDA CONDON  
Director, International Green Skills Network

Linda is the director of the newly formed International Green Skills Network for TDA. This network includes joint initiatives with the American Association of Community Colleges and the China Education Association for International Exchange.

Previous to her current role, Linda was the founder and Head of the National Centre for Sustainability at Swinburne University of Technology, Melbourne until 2007.

She is involved in a wide range of sustainability projects including provision of strategic advice to government, communities and industry on issues relating to sustainability. Linda’s professional career has involved industry experience which spans 20 years in a range of environmental areas, including environmental audits and the development of sustainability strategies for organisations.

Linda has been on the judging panels for a wide range of green skill awards including the Banksia Environmental Awards, Savewater and the United Nations Environmental Awards and is engaged in promoting the uptake of sustainability in education and training. She is currently providing strategic advice to the Department of Justice in Victoria on their sustainability policies.