

National Conference  
for  
TAFE Directors Australia

2010

TAFE in the Year of the Tiger

Occasional Paper Two 2010  
Seventh in the series





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TAFE Directors Australia's 2010 National Conference was held in Melbourne on 13–14 September. Over 290 delegates attended the Conference including two international keynote speakers, 25 delegates from China, and representatives from federal and state governments, industry partners, TDA Members and universities.

We were privileged to have such a large number of speakers and some very lively panel sessions – all providing valuable insights into the wide range of topics.

As we identified in the Conference materials, the theme, '*TAFE in the Year of the Tiger*' provided opportunities to explore with 'deep thinking' some of the important and often contentious issues that face us in 'courageous, active, self-assured, independent, sensitive, sympathetic, and [sometimes!] unpredictable' ways.

Occasional Paper Two 2010 brings together the papers and summaries of discussion sessions from the Conference. We acknowledge with gratitude the valuable input of each of our presenters and facilitators. Keynote presentations by Dame Jackie Fisher DBE, Chief Executive, Newcastle College Group, United Kingdom, and Mr Liu Jiantong, Deputy-Director, Department of Vocational and Adult Education, Ministry of Education, People's Republic of China, generated much interest and inspired us to continue to address our challenges and grasp our opportunities – with the 'roar of the tiger'.

The input from our delegates stimulated lively discussion in the question times and especially in the World Café group discussions. Feedback from conference delegates is invaluable and we thank each person who provided comments and suggestions.

We very much appreciate the generous support of our sponsors which, as always, contributes to the overall success of our Conference.

Key themes that emerged from the Conference included:

- The challenges and opportunities for Australia in the international student market
- The shape of tertiary education and the implications for funding
- Leadership in tertiary education
- Quality and how it can be achieved and measured
- Rural and regional education priorities.

Our 2011 National Conference will be held in Sydney, NSW, and we look forward to sharing another stimulating event with you.



PAM CAVEN, Director Policy & Stakeholder Engagement, National Secretariat, TDA  
**Conference Organiser**

## Conference ratings

91% agreed that 'I made some valuable connections to other people in this field'

.....

79% agreed that 'Some things I learned will make a difference in my work'

.....

76% agreed that 'The discussions contributed to my understanding of the issues'

.....

68% agreed that 'The Conference delivered on its aims'

.....

## Some common messages

... a major success - exciting, grounded, practical, ambitious

.....

Really enjoyed the networking, including the group discussions

.....

The connected tertiary sector debate was most interesting

.....

... the raw, honest and provocative approaches were refreshing

.....

Tiger theme was a hit: very effective, creative and engaging. . .

.....

The number of delegates was impressive and helped to network

.....

Dear Colleagues

On behalf of the Board of TAFE Directors Australia we are delighted to extend a warm welcome to the 2010 TAFE Directors Australia Conference hosted this year by Victoria.

The title of the conference, 'TAFE in the Year of the Tiger' highlights the opportunities and challenges for TAFE in an election year, and the growing collaboration of TAFE with China and the region. The conference theme also invites TAFE Directors to think boldly. We should ask how can TAFE proactively shape and manage this future ('being the tiger' – courageous, self assured, capable of great sympathy).

The 2010 Conference will involve members in creating a higher public profile for the critical role of TAFE as Australia's largest providers of nationally accredited training through development of resolutions for the incoming Federal Government. TAFE Directors Australia (TDA) as the national peak body representing the interests of Australia's 59 publicly funded TAFE and Technical institutes will ensure that these messages are heard.



BRUCE MACKENZIE Chair, TAFE Directors Australia

*Bruce Mackenzie*

You will have the opportunity to hear from an incredibly rich group of expert international and domestic speakers. The speakers will provide perspectives on a range of topics. We strongly encourage you to engage with them through your questions and comments. You will be provoked and entertained at the Conference Dinner by the award winning author, Don Watson.

Thanks go to Skills Victoria (DIIRD) as gold sponsors; support from the Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations and TAFE suppliers who are our silver sponsors: Fuji Xerox; TechnologyOne, Slade Partners and SunGard. We also thank our other TAFE sector commercial product and service bronze sponsors and exhibitors for supporting the 2010 Conference. TDA also wishes to acknowledge the contribution of students from Northern Melbourne Institute of TAFE and Box Hill Institute of TAFE.

In these interesting times we look forward to your contribution to a stimulating, lively and productive Conference.



MARTIN RIORDAN CEO, TAFE Directors Australia

*Martin Riordan*

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