



7 September 2017

Australian and international experts to identify skills needs for technology-driven jobs and innovation

TAFE Directors Australia National Convention, Adelaide, 7 & 8 September

TAFE's role as a leader in innovation, and as a trusted national provider of industry-driven skills and training will be the focus the TAFE Directors Australia (TDA) 2017 National Convention in Adelaide, starting today.

Speakers from industry, government, TAFE and the international sector will examine key areas of skills priority at the convention, *'Networked TAFE'*, with a focus on technology driven sectors including defence, energy and cybersecurity.

Speakers include the Assistant Minister for Vocational Education and Skills, Karen Andrews; the Shadow Minister for Skills and Apprenticeships, Senator Doug Cameron; and the South Australian Minister for Higher Education and Skills, Susan Close.

The Chief Executive of TDA, Craig Robertson, said the conference comes at a critical time for TAFE and its role in shaping a new era of technology-driven skills, innovation and entrepreneurial activity.

"After a turbulent period in the sector, there is an urgent need to look at a revitalisation of vocational education to support the high level technical and business skills that will be needed for the workforce of tomorrow," Mr Robertson said.

A global perspective will be provided by Dame Asha Khemka, the Principal and CEO of West Nottinghamshire College Group in the United Kingdom, which, in a post-mining economy, has become the country's largest provider of apprenticeships.

A new report from the University of Melbourne's LH Martin Institute, *'Bridge to Opportunity'*, will examine the role that TAFE can play in innovation and applied research, and include international case studies and policy recommendations.

The skills outlook in South Australia will be a key focus, with the Chief Executive of Defence SA, Andy Keough, and the Executive Director of Education at TAFE SA, Brian Rungie, to discuss the state's defence industry and other emerging opportunities.

Delegates will see demonstrations of cutting edge technologies connecting physical and virtual classrooms; a display of visual effects for feature films; and a demonstration of a virtual welder and a 3D nursing training simulation.

Preparing for jobs of the future and understanding the skills needs in emerging markets will be addressed by leading demographer, Bernard Salt.

The Chief Executive of the new Sydney School of Entrepreneurship, Nick Kaye, will look at the rise of entrepreneurship and the ambitious goals of this fledgling business hub in which TAFE NSW is a partner.

The issue of quality in vocational education and the rebuilding of confidence following the VET student loan scandal will be examined. Speakers include Professor Michael Lavarch, Commissioner with the Australian Skills Quality Authority; Lee Katauskas, Director, VET Student Loans Ombudsman; and the Mitchell Institute's Professor Peter Noonan.

There will be a major international focus, with more than 50 delegates from China, including representatives from vocational colleges and education departments, attending the China-Australia VET Forum, running alongside the convention.

The connections between VET and higher education will be tackled by Dr Craig Fowler, Managing Director of the National Centre for Vocational Education Research, and Mary Faraone, Chair of TDA and Chief Executive of Holmesglen Institute.

The conference dinner speaker is Paul Vasileff, Young Australian of the Year 2017, who's Adelaide fashion business has become an international success, and featured at Paris Couture Fashion Week.

TDA National Convention, 'Networked TAFE', Thursday 7 & Friday 8 September 2017, Hilton Hotel, 233 Victoria Square, Adelaide.

See the [Convention Program](#)

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