

2020-21

Annual Report



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About NCVER

OUR VISION

Informing and influencing policy and practice in VET to support a skilled and capable Australian workforce and a strong economy.

OUR MISSION

To deliver world class research, intelligent analytics and highly accessible data that is timely, relevant and trusted by our stakeholders.

Our service quality standards

Effective partnerships - We are highly responsive to our stakeholders' needs through partnering with them to deliver organisational goals and objectives.

Leading products and services – We contribute to policy, practice and VET system improvement through products and services that are trusted, authoritative and highly valued.

Efficient practices and processes – We maximise effective information flows through adopting leading practices and technologies.

Sound governance standards – We safeguard private information by upholding the highest standards of privacy, security and data integrity.

High quality work – We produce high quality, timely and relevant work using leading and contemporary techniques.

Impactful communication – We communicate widely and effectively with the VET sector and our messaging is tailored to the needs of stakeholders.

WHAT WE DO

The National Centre for Vocational Education Research (NCVER) is the national professional body responsible for collecting, managing, analysing and communicating research and statistics on the Australian VET sector.

Chair's message

In a year once again dominated by the global Coronavirus pandemic, the need for timely and **nuanced information** by governments and other stakeholders of the impacts of the pandemic on the training system has continued to grow.

NCVER has responded to this challenge by producing **research and analytical reports** on the impact of COVID-19 on issues as diverse as VET's role in addressing youth unemployment, the increasing role of online delivery during the pandemic, and industry innovation during COVID-19. NCVER has also provided special insights into understanding student outcomes during the crisis.

We introduced special COVID-19 announcements through the VOCEDplus **VET Knowledge Bank** on the measures introduced by Australian governments to reduce the impact of, and hasten the economic recovery from, the pandemic. For the 2020 National **Student Outcomes Survey**, a 'special' question was added to the questionnaire on the pandemic's impact on VET students' training experiences during COVID-19.

NCVER continued to take a leading role in the **VET Data Streamlining, Data Design and Governance program**. NCVER worked closely with all jurisdictions and regulators to define the elements of a new VET information standard including the development of a new data model. An important objective of the new information standard is to support timely, efficient, and accurate VET data reporting by training providers and governments.

We remain highly committed to supporting the data streamlining initiative as it is rolled out over the next couple of years and are enthusiastically **working with** all stakeholders including governments, training providers and regulators to deliver a strong, contemporary VET data collection and reporting capability for Australia.

Important development work commenced on a new future national survey. The **Survey of Employer Investment in Learning and Development** will for the first time in 20 years allow the VET sector to understand employer-sponsored training activity and expenditure. In addition, NCVER piloted a new **VET Student Experience Survey** during the year which will provide more frequent and timely data on student experiences and satisfaction at the RTO level.

We released a new look **VET student outcomes 2020 report** which featured a larger range of innovative products suited to different users and explored new **data linkage** opportunities to examine employment outcomes for students selecting a VET pathway and used advanced data analytics to better understand VET student outcomes for vulnerable groups in our society.



We have continued to evolve our products and services across the main outputs of data, research and VOCEDplus and successfully migrated a significant proportion of our content to digital formats accessible through the NCVER web portal.

Chair's message

We continued to update the **National Industry Insights Report** website for the **Australian Industry and Skills Committee (AISC)**, which brings together industry intelligence and other data to assist industry to prioritise training package development. This year we added a special examination of the COVID-19 pandemic, and its impacts on specific industry sectors, as well as on broader skills demand.

A major highlight of the year was the 29th annual **National Vocational Education and Training Research Conference 'No Frills'** which was held virtually on 7–10 July 2020. The theme 'Workforce Ready: Challenges and Opportunities for VET' encouraged us to explore what 'workforce ready' means for VET, especially in light of the substantial job losses caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. In addition, we continued our very popular podcasts in the '**Vocational Voices**' series during the year on topics such as micro-credentials in VET, the role of VET in youth unemployment recovery, and quality of VET teaching: perceptions and realities.

We have continued to **evolve our products** and services across the main outputs of data, research and VOCEDplus and successfully migrated a significant proportion of our content to digital formats accessible through the NCVER web portal. In addition, NCVER introduced a new **Research Quality Control and Accountability framework** which will sustain our efforts around producing high-quality and timely research and analytic products.

Of note this year has been the introduction of a new **Leadership Capability framework** across the business. This includes the roll-out of initiatives to build staff capability in a range of important disciplines including data analytics and modelling, machine learning, technology, and communications. The focus on developing our staff as highly expert professionals is a major focus in **NCVER's Strategic Plan**: one which is essential to positioning us to continue our important role as the VET data and information custodian.

I welcome on board our new directors, **Chloe Read**, Deputy Secretary, Education and Skills Reform, NSW Department of Education and **Jenny Lambert**, Director, Employment and Skills at the Australian Chamber of Commerce and Industry. In addition, I'd like to express my thanks to all our directors for their continuing commitment and great support for the work of NCVER. I have very much missed the opportunity to accompany our board discussions with the informal chats which inevitably occur around board meeting times. A virtual board table is a very convenient place around which to make decisions, but after a year of isolation on the west coast, I believe that face-to-face meetings are far preferable.

I thank **Nadine Williams**, **Megan Kirchner**, **Cathy White** and **Peter McKay**, all of whom have served valuable terms on the NCVER Board. Everyone undertook their roles with professionalism and provided wise counsel. Their valuable contributions to board discussions will be missed!





Chair's message

Of course, the NCVER task draws heavily on the data and cooperation from training providers who feed into our Australian data system. We are very aware of the burden that data management can impose, especially on smaller RTOs, and do all that we can to ensure that data processes are straightforward to minimise time spent on administrative tasks.

Importantly, I acknowledge the **NCVER team** for their hard work and continued professionalism during these challenging times. We are indeed fortunate to have the strong and insightful leadership of our Managing Director, Simon Walker. Simon is ably supported by his senior team, and a highly capable and committed NCVER staff who continue to work under COVID restrictions while producing quality outcomes at all times. At a time of major reform, the total focus and commitment of all at NCVER remains paramount. We are fortunate to have a team which has continued to meet deadlines with quality products and processes despite the inevitable difficulties of the current era. Thank you all for your work and bearing with the difficulties of remote working arrangements.

And sincere thanks also go to our other **key stakeholders**, those partners such as unions and business groups, who work with us to ensure that our services are relevant. We appreciate the vital role that you all play.

Finally, I wish to note that the responsibilities we carry out are executed under the authority of **Skills Ministers** across Australia. We thank these ministers and their senior officials for their interest and oversight as we work together towards a future of timely data provision and interpretation in more provident times.

Ruth Shean
Chair



2020-21 highlights

Engage widely and collaboratively to anticipate, understand and address national and state and territory VET information needs and priorities



Processes for working directly with the Skills Senior Officials Network (SSON) were further streamlined and improved to rapidly deliver projects under the **National VET Research Program** to inform VET reform efforts and to explore priority issues emerging from the COVID-19 pandemic. Key priority areas for research and analysis were identified in consultation with VET senior officials, peak bodies, and other key industry and training provider stakeholders to deliver relevant and timely reports. During the year, 11 research projects were completed and published, and an additional 19 projects are underway designed to inform and influence VET policy and practice.

The **29th National VET Research Conference 'No Frills'** in July 2020 was held online for the first time, responding to the challenges of the Coronavirus pandemic. The theme, Workforce ready: Challenges and opportunities for VET encouraged us to explore what 'workforce ready' means for VET, and was especially pertinent in light of the substantial job losses caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. The conference had record registrations of 415 attendees.

We contributed a submission to the House Standing Committee on Employment, Education and Training: **Adult literacy and its importance**, and continued to provide information to the Productivity Commission as it finalised its review into the **National Agreement on Skills and Workforce Development (NASWD)**.

Planning is underway to undertake the triennial NCVER **stakeholder engagement** survey during 2021. Last run in 2018, the survey will focus on our stakeholder's needs and preferences for information as well as satisfaction with our products and services and areas they would like to see developed for the future.

Produce integrated statistics, research and analytics that provide comprehensive insights to inform and influence the VET sector

NCVER released an enhanced **Total VET Activity students and courses report** during the year which featured a larger range of innovative products suited to different user types, including new infographics and enhanced data visualisation. Additionally, we released an improved **VET Student Outcomes 2020** Report which incorporated updated key market segments and additional features to assist the user.

We launched a new interactive data product, **DataBuilder**, which contains data from all major NCVER administrative statistical collections and national surveys. The tool allows users to build custom tables, apply filters, and derive their own insights from our data quickly and easily!

NCVER began exploring the use of **DataLab data linkages** to examine Occupational and employment outcomes for students selecting a VET pathway as an alternative to Higher Education. We are also applying advanced data analytics to several new projects including: segmentation of VET student cohorts for initial and continuing VET, equity group participation in VET, and to deepen understanding of VET student outcomes.

We are using **data linkage** to transform the value of the **Longitudinal Surveys of Australian Youth (LSAY)** to both participants of the survey and the policy and research community that use the data. Linking LSAY data with other sources including NAPLAN scores, My School data, and VET and higher education records enables us to improve the quality of the data, increase the richness and depth of information available, and provides an opportunity to refine the survey questions. Linked data have now been published and are available for access from the Australian Data Archive via a formal request and approval process for NAPLAN, My School and VET data. Linked data with higher education sources will be available during 2021.

During the year, we completed a significant analytical research project around unpacking short-course training, often referred to as **micro-credentials**, which is being seen as an increasingly important form of training, particularly as the world comes to terms with the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. The analysis determined the role this shorter, non-qualification training are fulfilling, as well as providing insights into the opportunities to further expand this segment of the VET sector.

NCVER is collaborating with the Australian Skills Quality Authority (ASQA) to conduct a survey and produce research on the **increasing role of online learning during COVID-19**.

NCVER is also working with the three **Skills Organisation Pilots** (including Digital, Mining and Human Services) in a suite of work around understanding pathway frameworks and identifying data which is relevant to identifying new jobs and occupations arising from technology change and patterns of work.

Assure the quality, integrity and transparency of our VET related products and services, instilling confidence in their use

NCVER has responded to the global **Coronavirus pandemic**, by producing several reports on the impacts of COVID-19 on, for example: VET Mandatory Work Placements; VET's role in addressing youth unemployment, the increasing role of online delivery, industry innovation during COVID-19, and its impact on student outcomes.

Work continues on the **reform of the National Student Outcomes Survey**. Our vision for the future of our student surveys is to transition from an overlap of cross-purpose, cross-sectional surveys to a suite of shorter, more targeted surveys that systematically capture more meaningful information across a VET student's experience. The 2020 survey reported against updated key market segments and many students now receive a shorter, more targeted questionnaire.

We have commenced work on developing a pilot **National Survey of Employer Investment in Learning and Development**, intended to provide information that has not been available for almost 20 years, when the ABS last undertook the Training Expenditure and Practices Survey (TEPS).

A COVID-19 module has been added to the 2021 **Survey of Employers Use and Views of the VET System** to find out about the pandemic's impacts on employers' training plans and the training undertaken by their employees over the past year.

NCVER has also added a module to the 2021 **National Student Outcomes Survey** on the pandemic's impact of VET students' training experiences during 2020, particularly online learning and work placements. It also includes a module of questions derived from the 2019 Apprentice and Trainee Experience and Destination Survey (ATED) to provide a 'check in' point two years after the ATED 2019 survey.

NCVER successfully piloted a new **VET Student Experience Survey** at the end of 2020. This survey is designed to provide frequent and timely data on student experiences and satisfaction at the RTO level to ASQA, the Commonwealth and RTOs, complementing information from the National Student Outcomes Survey. Based on learnings from the pilot, changes were made to the scope, communications strategy, and methodology, which was rolled out in the first wave in May-June 2021. Results will be provided only to ASQA and the Commonwealth, and participating RTOs will receive summary reports of their results.



Develop and implement ambitious, intelligent, customised and accessible VET-related products and services that are used and valued by our diverse stakeholders

We continued to update and improve the **National Industry Insights Report** website during the year on behalf of the Australian Industry Skills Committee and the Australian Government Department of Education, Skills and Employment. A feature of this year's report was a special COVID-19 supplement which focused on the impact of the pandemic on industry sectors, as well as its broader influence on skills demand in Australia.

Our **product strategy** is being rolled out including planning for new innovations in the flexible provision of data to stakeholders such as training providers through a secure single sign-on identity management facility and new publication and product types which will ensure we continue to meet the information needs of the sector as preferences change.

Significant enhancements were made to the **VET Knowledge Bank** on VOCEDplus, including a completely refreshed **VET Governance and Regulation resource** and updated **Timeline of VET** which provides a collected memory of VET reference information, including policy initiatives and landmarks in the development of the sector. In addition, an extended **Policy Initiatives section** was released which includes information on:

- Program delivery - an introduction to the national, state and territory skills lists, apprenticeships, skills recognition, equity, career development and VET delivered to secondary school students.
- Government bodies - a list of authorities, bodies, entities, and agencies established by the Australian and state and territory governments to support the training system.
- COVID-19 announcements - the measures introduced by the Australian, state and territory governments to mitigate the impact of, and promote the economic recovery from, the pandemic.
- Inquiries and reviews - a collection of inquiries initiated by the Australian, state and territory governments on aspects of the VET sector and where you can find the publications in VOCEDplus.

2020-21 highlights

Use targeted communication channels to enhance our impact by promoting and explaining our work so that it can inform and influence the VET sector

It has been a year of milestones, with the 500th edition of **NCVER News** published in February 2021. The Newsletter was first launched on the 23rd of April 1999 and currently has over 17,000 subscribers. Much has changed since the first edition. Whether context-specific knowledge enabled the transfer of knowledge between different circumstances and conditions was a key research question in the 1990s. Today, a key issue exercising researchers is understanding what the impacts of Artificial Intelligence (AI) and automation on the skills required by the labour market are and how VET can respond to the challenges around training for new jobs and changing work patterns.

Our podcast series, **Vocational Voices** which commenced in July 2019, reached the milestone of 10,000 downloads in November 2020. These 30-minute episodes continue to be well received, featuring leading experts who discuss current trends in VET.

We are currently planning for our **30th National VET Research Conference 'No Frills'**, which again will be a fully online event due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic restrictions, with the theme **Past informing the future: how has the VET landscape changed in 30 years?**

NCVER continued to transform our key **data and research products and services**.

In the last year we migrated as many products as possible to interactive digital formats through the NCVER web portal and made these accessible through mobile devices, to further develop our **data integration and analytics platform** to provide better and more intuitive access for our many stakeholders.

We played a significant role during the year in understanding **international developments in VET** and making these available to the broader Australian audience, including undertaking a major UNESCO project on the role of macro stakeholders, and particularly governments, in the efficient and rapid identification of New Qualifications and Competencies (NQC), in their prioritisation and integration into curricula and training regulations, and their effective implementation into learning environments.



Further develop our people as a highly skilled, adaptive and professional workforce, who are committed to our values and learning culture

NCVER staff were involved in:

- 21 conference and stakeholder presentations
- 88 training courses

We held a diverse and engaging **in-house seminar series**. These seminars enhanced VET knowledge across the company and helped foster collaborative learning and partnerships. These were held on subjects as diverse as understanding Apprenticeship and Traineeship completion rates, refining Apprenticeship's data, and defining the role of Project Management and communities of practice at NCVER.

NCVER introduced a new **Leadership Capability framework** across the organisation and a range of staff capability workshops in a range of important disciplines including data analytics and modelling, machine learning, technology, and communications. Developing our staff as highly expert people is a major element in the NCVER's Strategic Plan and one which is essential to positioning us to continue our important role as the VET data and information custodian.

NCVER continued to strengthen and diversify staff capabilities and promote greater **collaboration** across the organisation and in partnership with other agencies, to facilitate the production of high quality, relevant research, and analytical products.

Improve the efficiency and effectiveness of our systems and processes to underpin success and performance

In November 2019, the Skills Senior Officials Network (SSON) endorsed NCVER to lead the development of **Data Design and Governance policy options for the VET sector**, in support of the overarching VET Data Streamlining initiative. The **Data Design and Governance program** was established in early January 2020 including:

- Developing a new VET information standard
- Developing a set of principles for information management

Across both projects, NCVER is responsible for ensuring that the needs of our extensive stakeholder group are understood and reflected in the outcomes of the program of work.

NCVER has been working intensively with all jurisdictions and regulators to define what will be the first release of the new **VET information standard** including the development of a new data model. An important objective of the new information standard is to support more efficient and accurate VET reporting by providers and governments.

The NCVER **Risk Management Framework** was revised and updated with NCVER Board approved risk appetite and tolerance levels. The Risk Management Framework will be applied across the whole business operations and regular reporting to assist in risk-based decision making will occur at all levels.



Connecting with us


16 384
NCVER NEWS
SUBSCRIBERS


7802
TWITTER
FOLLOWERS


6085
LINKEDIN
FOLLOWERS


6538
PORTAL VISITS
VIA SOCIAL MEDIA


39
HANSARD
CITATIONS


140
RESEARCH
CITATIONS


870
MEDIA
CITATIONS


380 054
NCVER
PORTAL VISITS


109 052

PRODUCT
DOWNLOADS


551 731
VOCEDplus
WEBSITE VISITS


20 567
LSAY
PORTAL VISITS


36 231
VOCEDplus
WEB SEARCHES


3616
VOCEDplus
NEWS SUBSCRIBERS


9662
DATA SUPPORT BULLETIN
SUBSCRIBERS


3.8 BILLION
DATA RECORDS
PROCESSED


8288
CLIENT SUPPORT
EMAILS AND CALLS TAKEN


2321
DATA ENTRY
TOOL USERS


3581
ACTIVE
VOCSTATS ACCOUNTS


10 580
REGISTERED AVETMISS
VALIDATION SOFTWARE USERS

What we delivered



88 956

VOCEDplus
RECORDS



25

MEDIA
RELEASES

NCVER

26

NCVER AUTHORED
PUBLICATIONS



11

RESEARCH



15

STATISTICAL



21

CONFERENCE AND
STAKEHOLDER
PRESENTATIONS



2

SUBMISSIONS



47

AVETMISS-COMPLIANT
SOFTWARE
REGISTRATIONS



What we delivered



419

NO FRILLS' ATTENDEES

29th National Vocational Education and Training Research Conference 'No Frills'



659

EDUCATIONAL WORKSHOP ATTENDEES

Workshops:

- Incorporating digital skills into VET: Challenges and opportunities for delivery
- Incorporating digital skills into VET: Implications for educators
- Everything you need to know to become a VOCEDplus search expert
- 25 years of LSAY: understanding and using data from the Longitudinal Surveys of Australian Youth



584

PUBLIC WEBINAR ATTENDEES

Public Webinars:

- Rationalising VET qualifications: lessons from overseas
- VOCEDplus 'Expert Search' - What? Why? How? Amazing!
- Getting to know NCVET data and how to access it



6,800

PODCAST DOWNLOADS

Podcast episodes:

Season 5:

- Workforce ready: challenges and opportunities for VET
- Traditional trade apprenticeships: still a trusted brand?
- Investing in our workforce: cadetships vs apprenticeships
- Rationalising VET qualifications: support for a clustered model
- Best of 2020: highlights from seasons 4 & 5

Season 6:

- Quality of VET teaching: perceptions and realities
- VET's role in youth unemployment recovery
- The role of micro-credentials in VET

Governance



CORPORATE STATUS

An independent, not-for-profit company limited by guarantee owned by the Australian Government, State and Territory ministers responsible for VET



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COMPANY MEMBERS

Company members are the Australian Government, State and Territory ministers responsible for vocational education and training



25 NOV 2021

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Mandatory meeting of company members to consider the annual report and the company's performance and strategy.



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BOARD MEMBERS

- five of the Directors are nominated by the members of the company
- one of the Directors is nominated by the Australian Council of Trade Unions
- one of the Directors is nominated jointly by the Business Council of Australia and the Australian Chamber of Commerce and Industry
- one of the Directors is nominated by the Board on the recommendation of the Chair
- one of the Directors is the Managing Director of NCVER



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BOARD MEETING DATES

25 September 2020
11 December 2020
9 April 2021
25 June 2021



6

AUDIT AND RISK COMMITTEE MEMBERS

As at 30 June 2021



4

AUDIT AND RISK COMMITTEE MEETING DATES

24 September 2020
10 December 2020
7 April 2021
24 June 2021



107

EMPLOYEES (HEADCOUNT)

As at 30 June 2021



\$1,104,215

NET OPERATING DEFICIT

The deficit resulted from the recognition of amortisation expenditure associated with the development of intangible assets, with related revenue recognised in prior periods.

NCVER board

A board of nine directors sets the policies and strategic direction of NCVER and oversees the management of the company. The directors submit their report with respect to the company for the year ended 30 June 2021.

Company officers



Ruth Shean

*Chair, NCVER board and
Member, Audit and
Risk Committee
FAICD, FGIA, FCIS, FIPAABA
Appointed January 2019*



Lynne Austin

*Director, NCVER board
and Member, Audit and
Risk Committee
MAICD, AFIML
Appointed January 2018*



Ian Curry

*Director, NCVER board
Appointed November 2018*



Nari Chandler

*Director, NCVER board
GAICD, ANZSOG
Executive Fellow, GradCert
Human Factors & Safety
Management Systems, LLB
Appointed: January 2021*



Jenny Lambert

*Director, NCVER board
B.Ec, MBA
Appointed January 2021*



Chloe Read

*Director, NCVER board
MA (Hons), MCom,
ANZSOG Executive Fellow
Appointed January 2021*



Suresh Rao

*Director, NCVER board
and Member, Audit and
Risk Committee
B.Sc, M.Stat, PMP (Project
Management Institute)
Appointed November 2019*



Simon Walker

*Managing Director, NCVER
Board and Member, Audit
and Risk Committee
Appointed Managing
Director October 2018*



Peter Brass

*Company Secretary
B.Ec, FCPA, GAICD, CPRM
Appointed February 2020*



Suzanne Wauchope

*Independent Chair, Audit
and Risk Committee
Appointed 7 August 2020*

Detailed profiles on the board
of directors are available on
the NCVER Portal

[Click here](#)

Principal activities

The principal activities in which the company was engaged during the year were collecting, managing, analysing and communicating research and statistics on the Australian vocational education and training (VET) sector.

Operating results

The company is a not-for-profit company and is exempt from lodging income tax returns. Any monies remaining at the end of a financial year are added to the accumulated funds. The net operating deficit was \$1,104,215.

Shares, issues and dividends

The company does not issue any shares or debentures and does not pay dividends.

After balance-date events and likely developments

No matters and circumstances have arisen since the end of the financial year that significantly affected, or may significantly affect, the operations of the company, the results of those operations, or the state of affairs of the company in financial years subsequent to the financial year ending 30 June 2021.

Environmental regulation

The company's operations are not regulated by any significant environmental regulation under a law of the Commonwealth or of a state or territory.

Audit and risk committee

The Audit and Risk Committee's role is to assist the Board of Directors to fulfil its corporate governance responsibilities in relation to financial reporting, internal control structures, privacy controls, risk management systems and audit processes. The Committee has an independent chair.

During the 2020–21 financial year, the Audit and Risk Committee focused on its obligations regarding privacy compliance, legislation updates, as well as significant emerging projects that impact on company operations and risks.

Furthermore, the Committee reviewed several internal audits, including a review of internal storage and access to identifiable data and attendance and leave management. These reviews have significantly strengthened the company's privacy and financial/HR systems and processes.

The Committee considered a range of financial matters including the company's funds management and accounting policies, budget and audit reports. The Committee has maintained its strong focus on reviewing and monitoring major risks, data quality and data releases. The Committee also continues to review privacy related matters, insurance and the company's staffing profile, including management of staff leave.

The recommendations to the Board resulting from these reviews have assisted the company to meet its statutory and prudential obligations as well as fulfill its corporate governance responsibilities.



Director's report

Indemnification of directors and officers

The Company has arranged indemnity insurance for its Directors and Officers. This coverage is included within the Association's Liability Insurance which also covers Professional Indemnity with a premium cost of \$19,079 during 2020-21 (\$17,437 during 2019-20).

Directors' benefits

The Board hereby states that during the 12 months to 30 June 2021:

- a) No Director of the company, no firm of which the Director is a member or no body corporate in which a Director has a substantial financial interest, other than specified in part (b), has received or become entitled to receive a benefit as a result of a contract between the Director, firm or body corporate and the company;
- b) No Director of the company has received directly or indirectly from the company any payment or other benefit of a pecuniary value other than as show in the accounts as received in aggregate by Directors and other than the Managing Director receiving remuneration for services provided to the company under the normal terms and conditions of employment.

Director's report

Meetings of Directors

During the year, four Board meetings and four Audit and Risk Committee meetings were held. Attendances were:

	Board meetings (Number)		Audit and risk committee meetings (number)	
	Eligible to attend	Attended	Eligible to attend	Attended
Ruth Shean	4	4	4	4
Lynne Austin	4	4	4	4
Ian Curry	4	4	-	-
Megan Kirchner ¹	2	2	2	2
Peter McKay ²	1	1	-	-
Suresh Rao	4	4	4	4
Simon Walker	4	4	4	4
Cathy White ¹	2	1	-	-
Nadine Williams ³	2	1	-	-
Jenny Lamber ⁴	2	2	-	-
Nari Chandler ⁴	2	2	2	2
Chloe Read ⁵	2	1	-	-
Suzanne Wauchope ⁶			4	4

Notes: ¹ Term concluded 31 December 2020

² Resigned 2 October 2020

³ Resigned 7 April 2021

⁴ Appointed 1 January 2021

⁵ Appointed 9 April 2021

⁶ External independent member and Chair of the Audit and Risk Committee only appointed 7 August 2020

Auditor's independence declaration

A copy of the Auditor's independence declaration as required under Section 60–40 of the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012 is set out on page 30.

Signed in accordance with a resolution of the Directors.



Ruth Shean
Chair



Simon Walker
Managing Director

Dated at Adelaide this 24th day of September 2021



Financial reports

Summarised financial report for the year ended 30 June 2021

Directors' Declaration

In the opinion of the Directors of National Centre for Vocational Education Research Ltd ("NCVER"), the summarised financial report comprising the Summarised Statement of Profit or Loss and Other Comprehensive Income, Summarised Statement of Financial Position, Summarised Statement of Changes in Equity, Summarised Statement of Cash Flows and the attached notes:

- a) give a true and fair view of the company's financial position as at 30 June 2021 and its performance for the year ended on that date in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards as discussed in Note 1; and
- b) are consistent with the full financial report of NCVER for the year ended 30 June 2021.

At the date of this statement, there are reasonable grounds to believe that company is able to pay its debts as and when they fall due.

Signed this 24 day of September 2021 in accordance with a resolution of the Directors.



Ruth Shean
Chair



Simon Walker
Managing Director

Summarised Statement of Profit or Loss and Other Comprehensive Income for the year ended 30 June 2021

	2021 (\$)	2020 (\$)
REVENUE		
Revenue from contracts with customers		
Conferences and workshops	62,321	116,890
Contributions from members	1,519,347	1,496,540
Contract revenue	19,486,044	18,558,584
Other Revenue		
Interest	73,705	198,960
Publications	2,819	1,482
Sundries	138,406	312,149
Total Revenue	21,282,642	20,684,605
EXPENSES		
Premise lease interest	354,430	373,052
Operating expenses	9,503,403	9,707,005
Salaries and related payments	12,529,024	12,683,764
Total Expenses	22,386,857	22,763,821
Net Operating Deficit	(1,104,215)	(2,079,216)
Net Decrease in Equity	(1,104,215)	(2,079,216)
Other Comprehensive Income	–	–
Total Comprehensive Income for the Year	(1,104,215)	(2,079,216)
Total Comprehensive Income Attributable to Members of the Entity	(1,104,215)	(2,079,216)

Summarised Statement of Changes in Equity for the year ended 30 June 2021

	(\$)
Retained earnings at 1 July 2019	5,675,665
Net operating deficit for 2019-20	(2,079,216)
Retained earnings at 30 June 2020	3,596,449
Net operating deficit for 2020-21	(1,104,215)
Retained earnings at 30 June 2021	2,492,234
Total equity at reporting date	2,492,234

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

Summarised Statement of Financial Position as at 30 June 2021

	2021 (\$)	2020 (\$)
CURRENT ASSETS		
Cash Assets	3,713,422	4,624,235
Receivables	3,692,945	3,455,893
Investments	3,446,465	3,446,465
Prepayments	712,563	745,725
Total current assets	11,565,395	12,272,318
NON-CURRENT ASSETS		
Property, furniture and equipment	5,095,435	5,952,146
Intangible assets	210,901	846,347
Total non-current assets	5,306,336	6,798,493
TOTAL ASSETS	16,871,731	19,070,811
CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Payables	851,436	930,479
Provisions	2,365,110	2,228,729
Lease liability	428,836	378,160
Contract liabilities	4,932,281	5,698,118
Total current liabilities	8,577,663	9,235,486
NON CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Provisions	307,848	316,054
Lease liability	5,493,986	5,922,822
Total non-current liabilities	5,801,834	6,238,876
TOTAL LIABILITIES	14,379,497	15,474,362
NET ASSETS	2,492,234	3,596,449
EQUITY		
Retained Earnings	2,492,234	3,596,449
TOTAL EQUITY	2,492,234	3,596,449

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

Summarised Statement of Cash Flows for the year ended 30 June 2021

	2021 Inflows (outflows) (\$)	2020 Inflows (outflows) (\$)
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES		
Receipts from members, customers etc.	22,424,059	24,560,733
Payments to suppliers and employees	(22,553,451)	(23,350,030)
Interest paid	(354,430)	(373,052)
Interest received	47,266	187,391
Net cash provided by / (used in) operating activities	(436,556)	1,025,042
CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES		
Payments for furniture, equipment and leased premises	(2,926)	(119,326)
Payments for computer software	(93,171)	-
Net cash used in investing activities	(96,097)	(119,326)
CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES		
Payments to reduce equipment lease liability	-	(13,250)
Payments to reduce premise lease liability	(378,160)	(331,059)
Net cash used in financing activities	(378,160)	(344,309)
NET INCREASE / (DECREASE) IN CASH HELD	(910,813)	561,407
Cash at the beginning of the financial year	4,624,235	4,062,828
CASH AT THE END OF THE FINANCIAL YEAR	3,713,422	4,624,235

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

Notes to the Summarised Financial Statements for the year ended 30 June 2021

Note 1: Basis of Preparation

The summarised financial report has been prepared in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards - Reduced Disclosure Requirements and the requirements of the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012. NCVER is a not-for-profit entity for financial reporting purposes under Australian Accounting Standards.

Australian Accounting Standards set out accounting policies that the AASB has concluded would result in financial statements containing relevant and reliable information about transactions, events and conditions to which they apply.

The summarised financial statements and specific disclosures have been derived from NCVER's full financial report for the financial year. The summarised financial report does not, and cannot be expected to, provide as full an understanding of the financial performance, financial position and financing and investing activities of NCVER and should be read in conjunction with the full financial report which includes all disclosures required by the relevant financial reporting framework.

The summarised financial report, except for the cash flow information, has been prepared on an accruals basis and is based on historical costs modified by the revaluation of selected non-current assets and financial assets and financial liabilities for which the fair value basis of accounting has been applied.

The accounting policies used in the preparation of NCVER's full financial report have been consistently applied, unless otherwise stated and are, in the opinion of the Directors', appropriate to meet the needs of NCVER.

The presentation currency is Australian Dollars.

Note 2: Discussion and Analysis of the Financial Statements

The discussion and analysis is provided to assist members in understanding the summarised financial report. Financial statements and the information contained in the summarised financial report has been derived from the full 2021 Financial Report of NCVER.

Statement of Profit or Loss and Other Comprehensive Income

In 2021 revenue increased by 2.9% compared to last year and expenses decreased by 1.7% and a decrease in the deficit for 2021 of 46.9%. Contract income increased by 5.0% due mainly to the additional Survey and Research project work performed as per the Annual Implementation Plans. This also resulted in increased fieldwork and research contractor expense for the year. Operating expenses decreased by 2.1% due mainly to a reduction in the amortisation of software offset against the increase in fieldwork and research contractor cost.

Statement of Financial Position

Net assets decreased by 30.7% which is attributed to a 75.1% decrease in intangible assets due to the continued amortisation and a 13.4% decrease in income received in advance. Cash assets dropped by 19.7% and Receivables increased by 65.7% due to the timing of grant income received.

Statement of Cash Flows

Net cash flows from Operating Activities decreased by 142.6% during the year due to the timing of income received in advance. Receipts from members and other customers decreased by 8.7% and also a small decrease in suppliers and employee payments of 3.4%. Overall, cash decreased 19.7% due to the timing of grant income received. Interest received decreased by 74.8% due to a very low interest rate environment.

Note 3: Remuneration of directors

Income received or due and receivable by the directors of NCVER Ltd. from the Company

2021 (\$)	2020 (\$)
62,851	60,699

Note 4: Contingent Liabilities

There are no material contingent liabilities at year end.

Note 5: Events after Reporting Date

The directors are not aware of any significant events since the end of the reporting period.

**INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT ON THE SUMMARISED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
TO THE DIRECTORS OF NATIONAL CENTRE FOR VOCATIONAL EDUCATION RESEARCH LTD*****Opinion***

The summarised financial statements, which comprise the summarised statement of financial position as at 30 June 2021, the summarised statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income, summarised statement of changes in equity and summarised statement of cash flows for the year then ended, related notes and directors' declaration are derived from the audited financial report of National Centre for Vocational Education Research Ltd for the year ended 30 June 2021.

In our opinion, the summarised financial statements derived from the audited financial report of National Centre for Vocational Education Research Ltd for the year ended 30 June 2021 are consistent, in all material respects, with that audited financial report, on the basis described in Note 1.

Summarised Financial Statements

The summarised financial statements do not contain all the disclosures required by the Australian Accounting Standards – Reduced Disclosure Requirements. Reading the summarised financial statements, therefore, is not a substitute for reading the audited financial report of National Centre for Vocational Education Research Ltd.

The Audited Financial Report and Our Report Thereon

We expressed an unmodified audit opinion on the audited financial report in our report dated 24 September 2021.

Management's Responsibility for the Summarised Financial Report

Management is responsible for the preparation of the summarised financial statements on the basis described in Note 1.

Auditor's Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the summarised financial statements based on our procedures, which were conducted in accordance with Auditing Standard ASA 810 *Engagements to Report on Summary Financial Statements*.



Nexia Edwards Marshall
Chartered Accountants



Matthew O'Connor
Partner

Adelaide
South Australia

24 September 2021

Nexia Edwards Marshall

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**AUDITOR'S INDEPENDENCE DECLARATION
UNDER SECTION 60-40 OF THE AUSTRALIAN CHARITIES AND NOT-FOR-PROFITS COMMISSION ACT
2012**

In accordance with section 60-40 of the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012*, I am pleased to provide the following declaration of independence to the board members of National Centre for Vocational Education Research Ltd.

As lead audit partner for the audit of the financial statements of National Centre for Vocational Education Research Ltd for the year ended 30 June 2021, I declare that to the best of my knowledge and belief, there have been no contraventions of any applicable code of professional conduct in respect of the audit.



Nexia Edwards Marshall
Chartered Accountants



Matthew O'Connor
Partner

Adelaide
South Australia

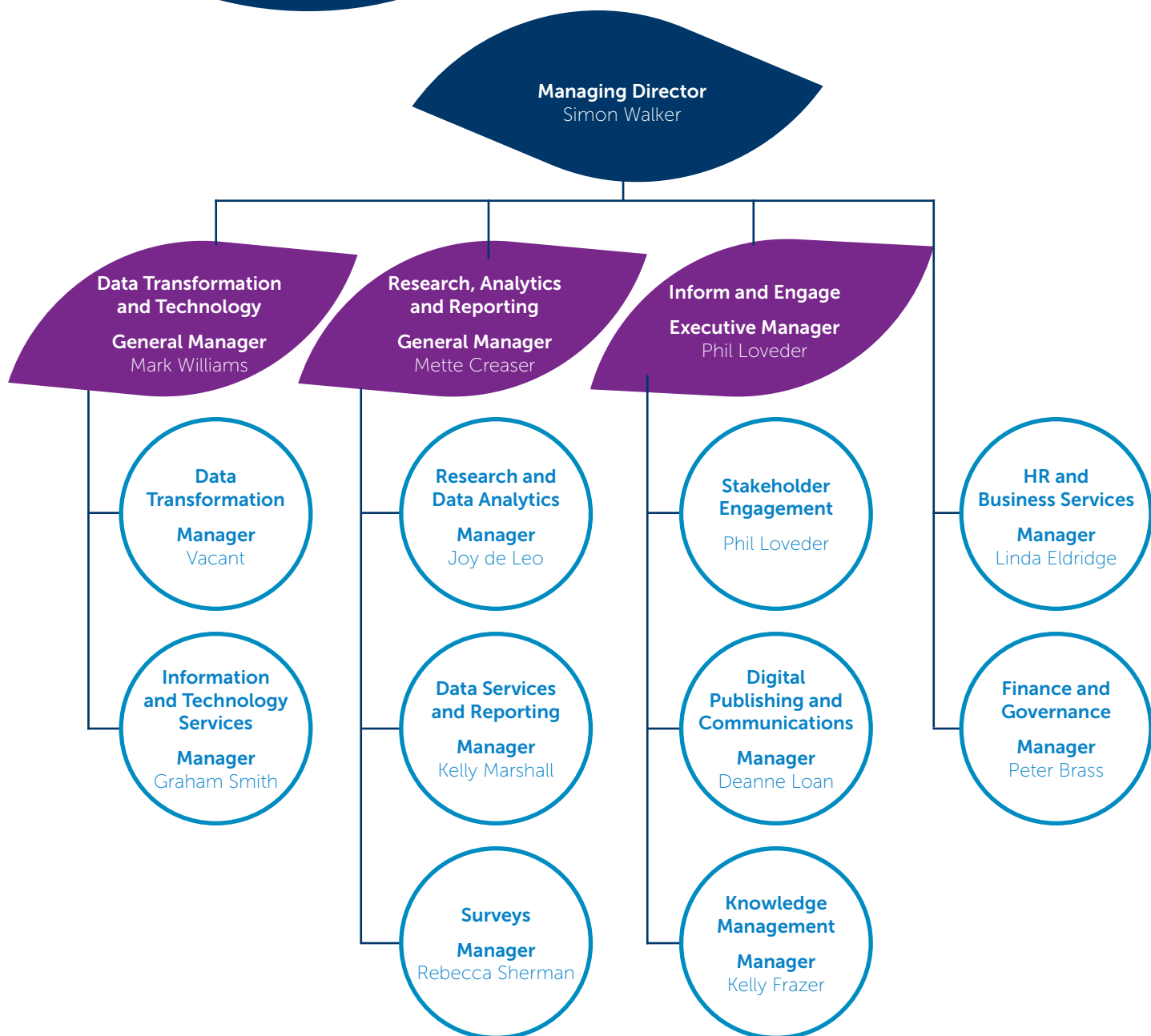
24 September 2021



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Company structure



Executive

Simon Walker *Managing Director*

Mette Creaser *General Manager, Research, Analytics & Reporting*

Mark Williams *General Manager, Data Transformation and Technology*

Phil Loveder *Executive Manager, Inform and Engage*

Peter Brass *Manager, Finance and Governance*

Linda Eldridge *Manager, HR and Business Services*

Published works

The following work was published during 2020–21. Superseded publications can be found in the VOCEDplus database <<https://www.voced.edu.au/>>.

Statistical publications

Apprentices and trainees 2020: March quarter - Australia

Apprentices and trainees 2020: June quarter - Australia

Apprentices and trainees 2020: September quarter - Australia

Completion and attrition rates for apprentices and trainees 2019

Government funding of VET 2019

Government-funded students and courses – January to March 2020

Government-funded students and courses – January to June 2020

Government-funded students and courses – January to September 2020

Government-funded students and courses 2019

Historical time series of apprenticeships and traineeships in Australia from 1963 to 2020

Historical time series of government-funded vocational education and training from 1981 to 2020

International onshore VET qualification completer outcomes 2020

Total VET students and courses 2019

VET in Schools 2019

VET qualification completion rates 2018

VET student outcomes 2020

VET student outcomes 2020: impact of COVID-19 on domestic students

Table 1. Summary of government-funded training by state/territory, 2019-20 (000)

	2019	2020	2021
Australia	1 167.4	1 205.5	1 155.3
New South Wales	323.3	319.6	302.9
Victoria	222.5	219.6	212.2
Queensland	181.1	181.5	177.3
South Australia	121.8	121.8	121.8
Tasmania	21.1	21.1	21.1
Western Australia	181.1	181.5	177.3
Northern Territory	21.1	21.1	21.1
ACT	21.1	21.1	21.1
Government-funded students	1 167.4	1 205.5	1 155.3
Government-funded courses	1 167.4	1 205.5	1 155.3
Government-funded training	1 167.4	1 205.5	1 155.3



Research publications

An analysis of 'micro-credentials' in VET

Building capability and quality in VET teaching: opportunities and challenges

Industry's role in VET governance: using international insights to inform new practices

Past informing the future – No Frills 2021 discussion paper

Provision of foundation skills training by community education providers in regional Australia

Rationalising VET qualifications: selected international approaches

Student equity in VET: participation, achievement and outcomes

The stock of qualifications in Australia

Traditional trade apprenticeships: experiences and outcomes

Vocational qualification development: lessons from overseas

What VET can offer to COVID-19 youth unemployment recovery

Work-based education in VET

Workforce-ready: challenges and opportunities for VET – No Frills 2020 discussion paper

Corporate publications

Research messages 2020

NCVER's strategic plan 2021–23

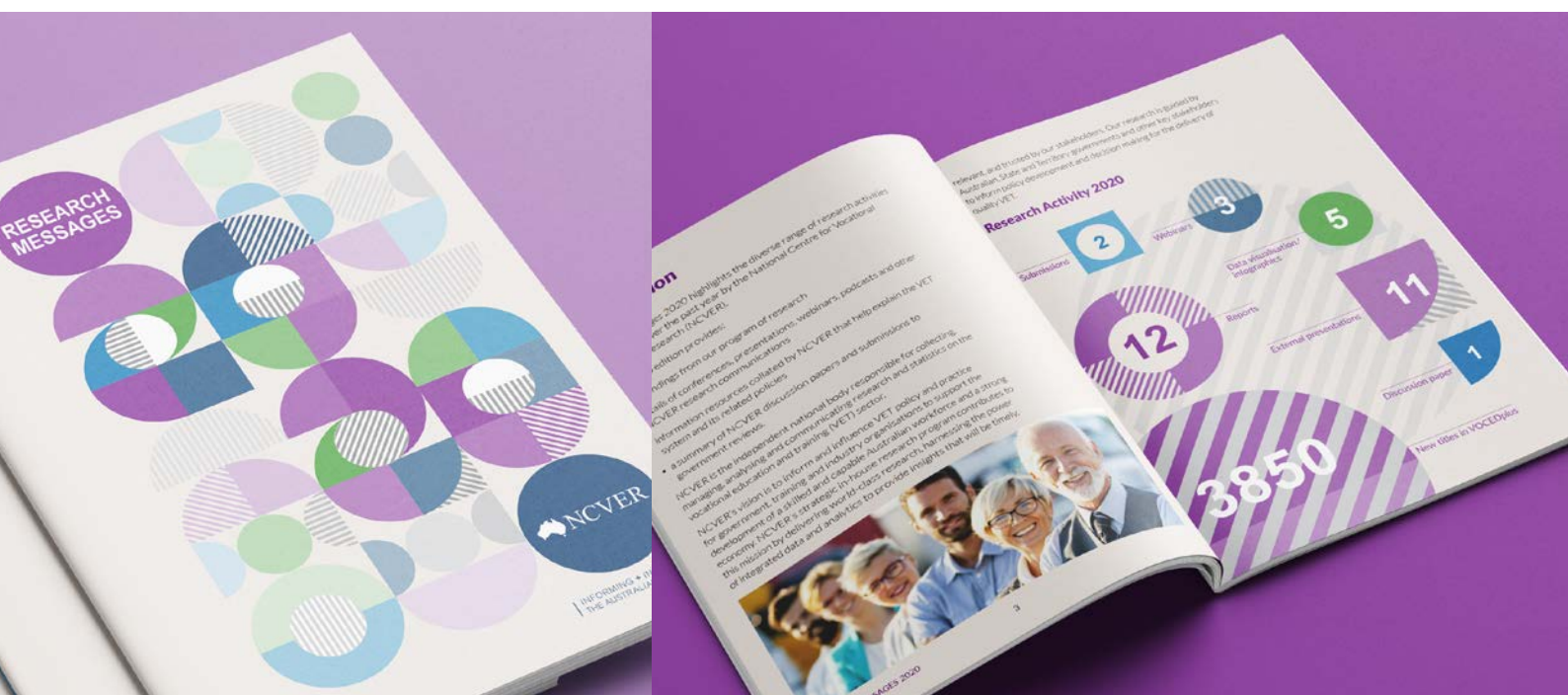
NCVER annual report 2019-20

Longitudinal Survey of Australian Youth

Generation Z: life after school

Life at 25: then and now

Y15 wave 5 data release



Presentations and submissions

Conference Presentations

Date	Presenter	Title	Event
7-10 July 2020	Circelli, M Wibrow, B	Incorporating Digital Skills into VET - challenges and opportunities for delivery	29th National Vocational Education Research Conference 'No Frills'
7-10 July 2020	Polvere, R Naidu, R	Everything you need to know to become a VOCEDplus search expert	29th National Vocational Education Research Conference 'No Frills'
7-10 July 2020	Semo, R Chew, E	25 years of LSAY: understanding and using data from the Longitudinal Surveys of Australian Youth	29th National Vocational Education Research Conference 'No Frills'
7-10 July 2020	Wibrow, B	Addressing changing skill needs through rationalising VET qualifications: an exploration of international models	29th National Vocational Education Research Conference 'No Frills'
7-10 July 2020	Misko, J Chew, E	Are VET for secondary school students workforce ready? A study on their post-school employment and training destinations	29th National Vocational Education Research Conference 'No Frills'
7-10 July 2020	Osborne, K	Exploring recognition of prior learning in Australian VET	29th National Vocational Education Research Conference 'No Frills'
2 October 2020	Osborne, K	An Introduction to NCVER	Early Childhood Hub Training for our Future Conference 2020:
8 October 2020	Semo, R	The Longitudinal Surveys of Australian Youth	Society for Longitudinal and Lifecourse Studies International Showcase
28 October 2020	Loveder, P Harvey, B	An introduction to VET and Australian Apprenticeship Data	AATIS October VET Conference
29 October 2020	Circelli, M	Participation in VET for women & people with disabilities	WAVE Forum on VET for Women and Girls
1-3 December 2020	Forrest, C	Soft skills in young Australians: Development and preliminary validation of a brief self-report measure	7th Biennial ACSPRI Social Science Methodology Conference
14-15 December 2020	De Leo, J	A Profile of the VET Workforce	ACDEVEG 2020 Conference

Presentations and submissions

Conference Presentations (cont.)

Date	Presenter	Title	Event
21-23 April 2021	Gamlin, T	VOCEDplus: Building confidence and skill for practitioners through resource discovery	AVETRA Annual Conference
21-23 April 2021	De Leo, J Loveder, P	Panel Session – Focus on VET research	AVETRA Annual Conference
28 April 2021	Loveder, P	Bridging Asia Pacific and Europe: New Qualifications and Competencies in TVET	UNESCO and German Federal Institute for Vocational Education and Training
19 May 2021	De Leo, J	Building capability and quality in VET teachers	TAFE National VET Educator Network
20 May 2021	Siekman, G	Industry's Role in VET Governance - an International Comparison	Queensland Catholic Education Commission VET in Schools Forum

Stakeholder Presentations

Date	Presenter	Title	Event
27 August 2020	Loveder, P Circelli, M	The role of NCVER in research and statistics	Council for Aid to Education (U.S.)
6 December 2020	Palmer, B	Micro-credentials in 2019 in Total VET Activity	Meeting with government jurisdictions
7 December 2020	Chew, E	School to work pathways - a sequence analysis approach	Department of Education, Skills and Employment
31 March 2021	Creaser, M De Leo, J	NCVER Sector Insights	Australian Skills Quality Authority

Submissions

Date	Title
30 October 2020	Statistical submission to the Productivity Commission review of the National Agreement on Skills and Workforce Development
4 March 2021	House Standing Committee on Employment, Education and Training: Adult literacy and its importance



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