

# Second Quarterly Report

## June 2005

**June feature:** produced the “best of” Australian Flexible Learning Community resources at <http://flexiblelearning.net.au/community>

The first of our quarterly reports in March 2005 identified key aspects of our work, with our focus being on the establishment of the new centre. The report also acknowledged that ICVET is one of many groups contributing to the continual improvement of quality in teaching and learning in TAFE NSW.

We are excited about how far we have come in establishing our new role. We began with a ‘clean slate’ and now, following the endorsement of our business plan and through discussions with Institutes and Curriculum Centres, we have identified our priorities and theme areas.

### Role and core areas of work (from Business Plan)

To re-cap what is in our business plan, our role is to enrich professional practice in VET teaching and learning to support the learning needs of the future workforce. We do this through three core areas of work:

- *researching* and supporting teaching, learning and assessment
- leading state-wide and national *professional development* initiatives
- providing *strategic information* in teaching and learning in VET

Our outcomes are through our contribution to:

- ongoing development and promotion of VET pedagogy
- teachers able to access and apply new ideas and practice in VET teaching and learning
- promote and showcase TAFE NSW teaching and learning
- support continual improvement in the quality of teaching, learning and assessment in TAFE NSW

### Priorities

The priorities that we will focus on have been determined following consultation with Institutes. Feedback will be sought during further visits to Institutes.

Priority target areas	Our goal	Underlying theme areas
VET pedagogy:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• work with teachers and trainers to examine VET pedagogy</li> <li>• research how theory influences practice and vice versa</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• workplace learning</li> <li>• assessment</li> <li>• apprenticeships and traineeships</li> <li>• partnerships and entrepreneurship</li> <li>• blended learning</li> <li>• indigenous learning</li> <li>• maintaining technical currency</li> <li>• educational leadership</li> <li>• workforce development</li> <li>• changing VET practices</li> <li>• learning approaches</li> </ul>
Teacher capability:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• identify emerging teacher capability needs</li> <li>• support workforce development through professional development initiatives</li> </ul>	
Educational trends and issues:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• advise management on issues and trends that impact on practice</li> </ul>	
Working and learning in VET	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• analyse exemplars of teaching and learning practice</li> <li>• research new models</li> <li>• share through stories, the experiences and learning of teachers in applying new ideas and practices</li> </ul>	

## Our achievements during the last quarter

### **Core work area 1: Research and support specific TAFE NSW teaching and learning priorities**

#### **Success factors (from Business Plan):**

- ▶ Teachers supported in improving teaching, learning and assessment practice
- ▶ Meeting priority stakeholder needs and undertaking work collaboratively with Institutes, Curriculum Centres and statewide units
- ▶ Promoting and enhancing the profile of TAFE NSW as a leading provider

#### **Achievements**

##### **Vet Pedagogy Project 2005**

- literature has been reviewed and updated
- user-friendly materials are being developed
- the focus for Semester 2 is on 'accommodating learner needs'
- a forum has been conducted with a group of teachers and educational managers and strategies have been identified on how teachers can be involved in reflection on theory and practice (to be discussed with Institutes)

##### **Emerging Practices Project**

- a new project has been established for examining emerging practices in the field
- during Semester 2 the focus will be on the theme area of 'workplace learning and assessment'
- the research methodology will be identified prior to commencement of identification of exemplars and analysis and research in the field

##### **Research project 'Designing PD for the Knowledge Era'**

- established the national steering committee for the project and supported Chair
- developed the first research working paper for the project

##### **Key Research Documents**

- key relevant education and research associations identified that provide information free of charge
- located key journals, publications and abstracts and reviewed them for suitability and other links
- categorised research into theme areas
- in total:
  - 13 key international, 9 national and 4 state websites located in relation to theme areas
  - 6 key sites for action research located
  - 66 relevant papers identified and 19 papers reviewed for new ICVET website

##### **ICVET Visits to Institutes**

The ICVET visits to Institutes, OTEN, Curriculum Centre Working Group and CLI visits have been completed. The feedback on our business plan, core work areas and approach has been analysed and in response to the feedback, the ICVET priorities and theme areas have been identified (see above).

##### **Meetings**

In response to a request from the DDG TAFE & CE, ICVET has met with **NCVER** in Adelaide and liaison has been established in regard to linkages between research projects.

## **Core work area 2: Facilitate implementation of statewide and national professional development initiatives for VET teaching and learning**

### **Success factors (from Business Plan):**

- ▶ Improved teacher capability through support for development and implementation of Professional Development (PD) Framework and priorities
- ▶ Improved flexible learning capability through increased teacher involvement in PD opportunities within Australian Flexible Learning Framework
- ▶ Enhanced TAFE NSW presence in national forums and influence on national thinking and strategies in professional development
- ▶ Sharing of experience and learning of teachers on international exchange

### **Achievements**

#### **TAFE NSW PD Framework for Teachers**

- supported the establishment of the new PD Framework for Teachers Advisory Committee, which is a working group of the TAFE NSW PD Strategic Committee
- coordinated update of reporting proformas for Institutes

#### **TAFE NSW Conference on Teaching and Learning Practice: “The Learning Powerhouse” 16<sup>th</sup> September with networking event on evening of 15<sup>th</sup>.**

- met with the TAFE NSW Steering Committee for the conference
- established relationships with potential sponsors
- designed draft program and called for presenters
- scoped and negotiated venue contract
- developed marketing strategy
- Minister to open showcase segment of conference

#### **Australian Flexible Learning Framework**

- **Capability Building Program**
  - ongoing management of the program area
  - commence planning and concept paper for 2006
  - working with national managers on working and learning in the Knowledge Era
  - finalised \$5.2M contractual arrangements with States and Territories
- **NSW LearnScope**
  - produced a dynamic NSW LearnScope website
  - initial workshop for LearnScope teams in Start Up Program
  - endorsement from NSW VET Reference Group of selection process and recommended LearnScope projects
- **National Coordination of LearnScope**
  - conduct a national workshop for LearnScope managers from each State and Territory
- **Toolbox Champion**
  - conducted introductory programs to Toolboxes across the NSW VET sector
  - consultations with RTOs about customisation of toolboxes
- **NSW Framework Coordinator**
  - prepared monthly reports to TPEG
  - attended Framework Implementation Network meeting
  - presented at DET NSW ITAB Consultative Group
- Transition strategy completed for ‘close down’ of online **Australian Flexible Learning Community** project
  - produced the ‘best of’ Australian Flexible Learning community resources at <http://flexiblelearning.net.au/community>

## TAFE NSW International Centre for VET Teaching and Learning

### **AUSTAFE Conference 28-29 July – teaching and learning stream**

- worked with the TAFE NSW Managers Association and supported them in sourcing sponsors for the conference
- designed and coordinated the presentations in the teaching and learning stream of the conference
- arranged keynote for the conference
- arranged additional occasional addresses in Riverina and Liverpool

### **Skill Ecosystem Project**

- designed a professional development and knowledge sharing strategy for the national Skill Ecosystem Project for the DET management group

### **Reframing the Future**

- provided NSW feedback on outcomes of national selection process for recommended 2005 projects

### **Coordination of State and National Committees**

- TAFE NSW PD Strategic Committee – support for the Chair and Committee meetings
- NSW VET Reference Group for Australian Flexible Learning Framework – coordinate and chair the meetings
- Australian Capability Building Program National Management Group - membership of the Group and support for the Chair of the Group

### **Meetings and Conferences**

ICVET was invited to present two sessions on educational leadership and capability building in the Knowledge Era at this Perth Forum which was attended by 750 delegates. ICVET was also invited by UTS to be part of the organization of a researchers forum into working and learning in VET, which is to be held during December

Members of ICVET have also attended the:

- EdNA Online state consultation forum
- state focus group for the national project “Supporting VET Providers in Building Capability for the Future”
- Australian Flexible Learning Framework Implementation Network meeting in Melbourne

## ***Core work area 3 Provide strategic information services in VET teaching and learning for TAFE NSW***

### **Success factors**

- ▶ Managers utilise information to inform local planning processes and learning networks
- ▶ Resources and new ideas influence teaching and learning practice in Institutes, demonstrated by website hits and examples of practical application

### **Achievements**

#### **ICVET internet website**

This new website is an initiative of the DDG TAFE & CE in conjunction with ICVET. Extensive effort has been put into establishing the basic content for the website, which will continue to grow and expand over time. The purpose of the website is to:

- showcase TAFE NSW people, best practice and thinking in VET teaching and learning
- bring leading exemplars and thinking from international, national and NSW sources to TAFE NSW practitioners.

In response to ongoing strong requests from Institute, the website will feature a bi-monthly Zine (online stories) and an A-Z of resources in teaching and learning. The website will also feature research, exemplars and international papers. It will be launched late July.