

Researching VET policy and practice for librarians

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Aim of this presentation

- **Overview of VET research in Australia and overseas**
 - extent of VET research
 - current key topics
 - dissemination of VET research
 - impact of VET research on policy and practice
- **Key sources of information**
 - the range of sources
 - NCVER
 - VOCED
- **Roles for librarians in VET research**
- **Questions?**

Extent of VET research

- **Australia**
 - **Research centres**
 - **Other organisations undertaking research**
 - **Research programs**
 - **Conferences**
 - **Australian VET Research Association (AVETRA)**
- **Overseas**
 - **national organisations**
 - **international organisations**

Current key topics in VET research

NCVER's five themes:

- Students and individuals
- Teaching and learning
- Industry and employers
- VET system
- VET in context

National research priorities for 2004:

- Highly skilled workforce
- Employers and individuals at the centre
- Communities and regions strengthened
- Indigenous Australians

Dissemination of VET research

- **Involve stakeholders at the beginning of the research process**
- **Inform stakeholders about the research during the research process, and keep them involved**
- **Explore and use many different delivery mechanisms and formats**
- **Target particular groups of users**
- **Develop networks and partnerships**

Relationship between VET research and VET policy and practice

- **Importance recognised**
- **Improvement shown**
- **Strategic approaches**
- **Examples of research influencing policy and practice**

Range of information sources for VET research

- **Print resources - reference books, reports, journals, etc**
- **Databases - print, electronic, web**
- **Web resources: sites, documents, electronic journals, databases**
- **Other internet resources: email lists and on-line discussion groups**
- **Libraries**
- **Forums and conferences**
- **People: networks, special interest groups, committees, consultants**
- **Organisations and associations (e.g. AITD)**

World Wide Web

- **Major search engines (Alta Vista, Google, Excite)**
- **Major category sites (Yahoo, Netscape Search)**
- **Subject gateways and portals (EdNA)**
- **Virtual libraries**
- **Organisation web sites**
- **On-line databases (VOCED, ERIC, ETV)**
- **On-line bookshops (Amazon)**



Informing **policy** and **practice** in Australia's **training system**

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- ▶ Students and individuals
- ▶ Teaching and learning
- ▶ Industry and employers
- ▶ VET system
- ▶ VET in context
- ▶ Statistics
- ▶ VET Statistical Standard

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Roles for librarians in VET research

- **Searching for information**
- **Managing information**
- **Research projects**
- **Secondary research and librarians - examples at NCVER**