



TRANSFORMING EDUCATION AND TRAINING IN AUSTRALIA: CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES

A hybrid policy forum

Hosted by the **Australian Coalition for Education and Development (ACED)**, **Adult Learning Australia (ALA)**, **Women in Adult and Vocational Education (WAVE)**, the **Jean Monnet Network on Social and Scientific Innovation on Achieving the Sustainable Development Goals**, and the **European Union Centre of Excellence at RMIT University**.

WEDNESDAY 15 February 2023

9:30 – 15:00 (AEDT - Melbourne time)

RMIT, CITY CAMPUS/Online

Council Chamber
Building 1,
124 La Trobe St, Melbourne

FREE EVENT

Light refreshments provided

CONFIRMED SPEAKERS/FACILITATORS

- Hon Brendan O'Connor MP, Minister for Skills and Training (video presentation)
- Craig Robertson, CEO, Victorian Skills Authority
- Prof Ellen Boeren, University of Glasgow
- Elaine Butler, WAVE Ambassador
- Prof Jack Beetson, Executive Director, Literacy for Life Foundation
- Jenny Dodd, CEO, TAFE Directors Australia
- Jenny Macaffer, CEO, Adult Learning Australia
- Sally Thompson, WAVE
- Kit McMahon, Women's Health in the South East, WAVE
- A/Prof Jose Roberto Guevara, RMIT University
- Prof Bruce Wilson, RMIT University

The Policy Forum aims to contribute to the current policy conversations on Transforming Education and Training in Australia from the perspective of employment, education and skills development that ensures the principles of equity, gender, and sustainability. More specifically:

- To provide an opportunity to take stock of current global and national policy debates and initiatives, and to help raise awareness of the opportunities linked to transforming the education and training systems in Australia, to address the identified challenges.
- To engage with the inter-connected themes of lifelong learning, highlighting the often-missed sectors of adult learning, community education and vocational education and training, with a clear emphasis on equity as cross-cutting principle.
- To facilitate the opportunity for civil society networks to come together and become visible as activators in this policy space and release a collective statement on Transforming Education and Training in Australia.

Speakers include key policymakers at federal and state levels, international education experts, and experts on and advocates of adult learning, community education and vocational education and training to share their perspectives on co-creating more inclusive, equitable and sustainable LLL systems in Australia.

Program Overview:

Morning sessions (9:30 – 12:30 in person and online)

- Panel 1: Policy initiatives in job and skills and inclusive lifelong learning for adults
- Panel 2: Towards inclusive, equitable and sustainable LLL systems in Australia

Afternoon breakout sessions (13:00 – 15:00 in person and online)

- ACE, LLL and the Workforce (on campus hosted by ALA)
- Women and gender equity challenges (on campus hosted by WAVE)
- Learning for Climate Change (on campus hosted by RMIT)
- Online Breakout Conversation (hosted by ACED)

Closing session: Where to from here (14:00 – 15:00 in person and online)



WOMEN IN ADULT & VOCATIONAL EDUCATION



The European Union Centre of Excellence at RMIT University is co-funded through grants from the European Union (EU) Jean Monnet Programme & RMIT University



TRANSFORMING EDUCATION AND TRAINING IN AUSTRALIA: CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES

Time (Melb, AEST)	Part 1: Policy Forum Program
9:30	Welcome to RMIT – Professor Bruce Wilson, Director, EU Centere of Excellence at RMIT Acknowledgement of Country
9:40 – 9:50	Overview of the Policy Forum Objectives and Structure -A/P Jose Roberto Guevara, RMIT Transforming Education and Training in Australia: Context Setting Lifelong Learning opportunities to address the challenges of the pandemic, jobs and skills crisis and climate justice. (Local and Global)
9:50 - 11:00	Panel 1: Policy initiatives in job and skills and inclusive lifelong learning for adults. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hon. Brendan O'Connor, Minister of Skills and Training, Australia (video) • Craig Robertson, (CEO, Victorian Skills Authority) • Prof. Ellen Boeren, University of Glasgow (Online) •
11:00 – 11:15	Break
11:15 – 12:15	Panel 2: Towards inclusive, equitable and sustainable LLL systems in Australia <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Towards an inclusive, equitable and sustainable LLL systems in Australia - Elaine Butler, WAVE Ambassador • First Nations perspective – Jack Beetson, Executive Director of The Literacy for Life Foundation (Online) • TAFE perspective - Jenny Dodd, CEO, TAFE Directors Australia (TDA) (Online) • Gender perspective – Sally Thompson, WAVE Executive Member • ALA perspective - Jenny Macaffer - CEO, Adult Learning Australia (ALA)
12:15 – 12:25	Closing Remarks and Instructions for the Breakout Conversations
(1230 - 1300)	A light lunch for in person participants
Part Two: Breakout Conversations and Closing	
1300 - 1400	Discussions on: Towards an inclusive, equitable and sustainable adult and vocational educations sector, as part of a LLL systems in Australia <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ACE, LLL and the Workforce (on-campus hosted by ALA) • Transforming education through gender equality I Challenges and Opportunities (on-campus hosted by WAVE) • Learning for Climate change (on-campus hosted by RMIT) • Online Breakout Conversation (on-line hosted by ACED)
1400 -1500	Where to from here? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Report back from breakout groups (facilitators -ALA, WAVE, RMIT and ACED) • Endorsement of forum statement - Robbie Guevara (RMIT) • Close and thank you messages - Bruce Wilson (RMIT)