



2017-18

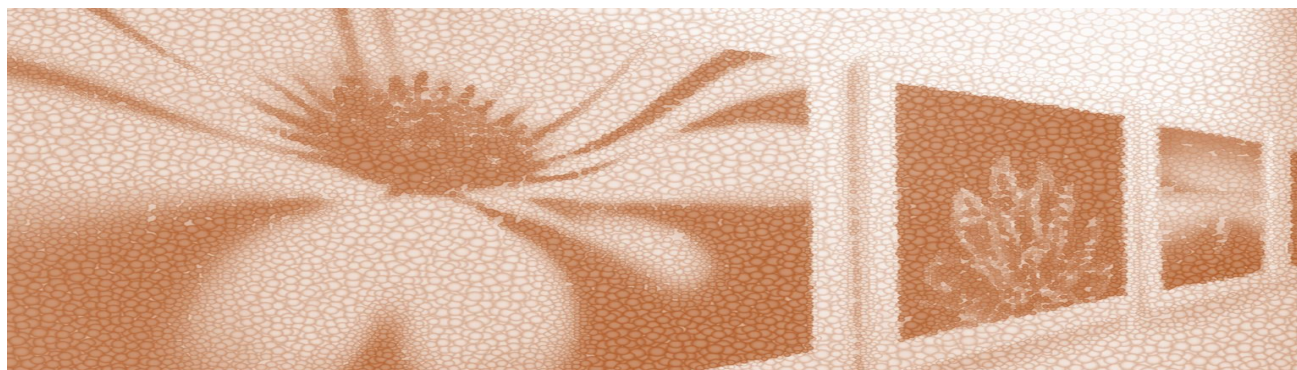
Annual Report

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INTRODUCTION

This Annual Report reflects the activities and achievements of TDA for the period July 2017 to June 2018.



ABOUT US

TAFE Directors Australia (TDA) is the peak national body incorporated to represent Australia's technical and further education (TAFE) providers. The public provider (TAFE) network delivers a diverse and integral series of technical and further education services for individuals, enterprises and communities in the tertiary education sector in Australia. TAFE operate in metropolitan, regional and remote locations, providing vocational and higher education programs and services on campus, online, in workplaces and increasingly in international markets. The core business of TDA is to support its members with policy and advocacy for the important role of TAFE under state and territory jurisdictions to meet Australia's need for increased productivity, participation and skills in the workforce. TAFE also has an important role in meeting community obligations, particularly across remote and regional Australia. Our purpose is to:

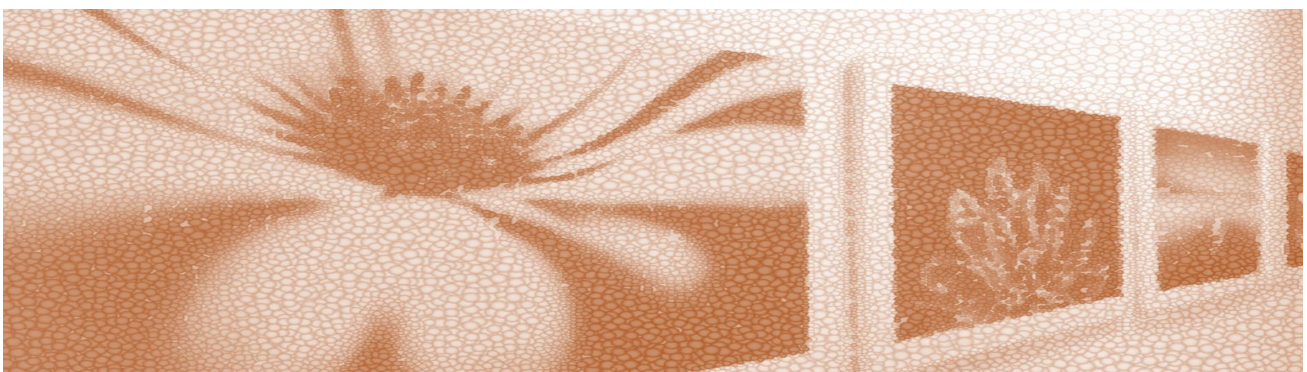
- Provide services for members to meet current and emerging priorities;
- Position TAFE nationally as the major provider of high quality skills training;
- Advance technical and further education policy in Australia;
- Lead advocacy for improved outcomes for students, both domestic and international; and
- Facilitate opportunities for growth, collaboration and partnerships in national and international settings.

Vision

TDA will serve the interests of its members by advocating for higher quality outcomes for learners and employers in competitive vocational education and training markets, by leading policy development for the TAFE sector and by providing value-added products and services.

Mission

TDA will promote the development, resourcing and growth of TAFE Institutes in all jurisdictions across Australia and will promote TAFE Institutes as leaders in the provision of high quality technical and further education.



NATIONAL BOARD

Members

Mary Faraone | Chair (*appointed October 2016 - Member since 2015*)
CEO | Holmesglen Institute

Christine Robertson | Deputy Chair (*appointed Deputy Chair Nov 2017 – Member since 2015*)
Pro-Vice Chancellor (VET) | Charles Darwin University NT

Leanne Cover | Board Member (*appointed January 2016*)
CEO | Canberra Institute of Technology

Mary Campbell | Board Member (*appointed November 2017*)
CEO | TAFE QLD

Jenny Dodd | Board Member (*appointed March 2018*)
CEO | TAS TAFE

Duncan Anderson | Board Member (*appointed May 2016*)
CEO | South Regional TAFE, WA

Terry Charlton | Board member (*appointed January 2017*)
Chair | TAFE NSW

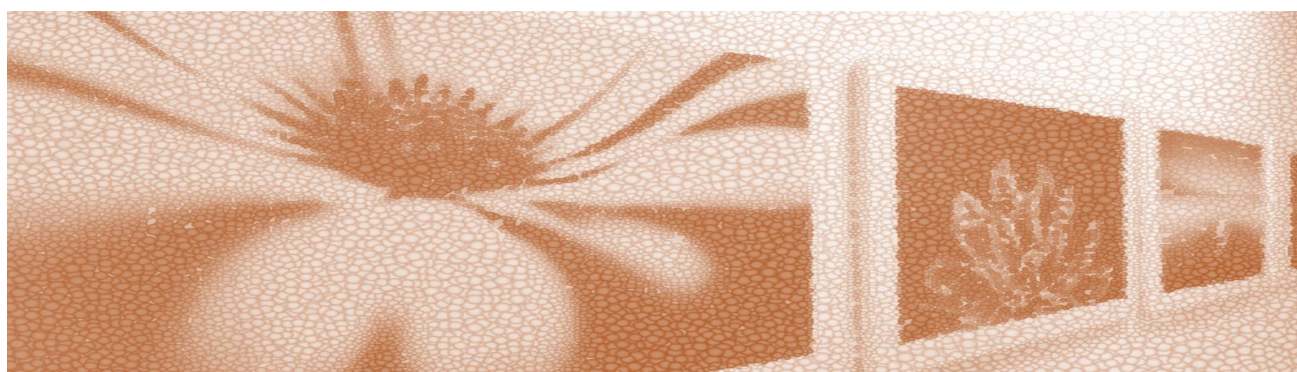
Joanne Denley | Board Member (*appointed March 2018*)
Board | TAFE SA

Craig Sloan | Board Member (*appointed October 2017*)
Chair | Canberra Institute of Technology

Executive Staff

Malcolm White | Ex Officio, CEO TDA *November 2014-September 2015*
Currently Chair | National Scholarship Foundation (*appointed May 2015*)

Craig Robertson | CEO TDA (*April 2017- current*)



THE CHAIR'S REPORT

Message from Mary Faraone

I am pleased to present the TAFE Directors Australia 2017/18 Annual Report. Whilst the VET sector's operating and external environment continues to experience upheaval with changing market dynamics and players, the growing focus on the sector by industry groups and expert commentators has resulted in raising the profile of the sector into the public domain. TDA through its Chief Executive, Craig Robertson, has reinvigorated the public discourse about the sector and more importantly TAFE's important role in the social fabric of our local communities through skill development, industry engagement, workforce development and participation in education and training. TAFE institutes contribute, not only to the skills development of individuals, but also to the economic and social wellbeing of their communities supporting social cohesion and social inclusion and to the overall prosperity of the nation.

The 12-month period has seen TDA manage the fallout of the closure of three TAS members. In particular, the Careers Australia Education Institute and the Australian School of Management has resulted in TDA contacting over 6,200 students and assisting over 3,700 in some form, of which 1,700 have sought to continue their training with a TAFE. It has been extremely busy for the secretariat and has given us visibility at the student level of the fallout of the VFH failure. TDA continues to work actively and positively with the Department of Education to finalise the issues relating to these closures.

The Board composition changed significantly in 2017/18. Retiring Directors in the reporting period included:

- Peter Vaughan (South Australia)
- Jodi Schmidt (Queensland)
- Nick Burrows (Tasmania and Chairs Council representative)

Current directors are:

- Mary Faraone (Victoria) Chair
- Christine Robertson (Northern Territory) Deputy Chair
- Mary Campbell (Queensland)
- Duncan Anderson (Western Australia)
- Terry Charlton (NSW)
- Leanne Cover (ACT)
- Jo Denley (South Australia)
- Jenny Dodd (Tasmania)

Craig Robertson as CEO has overseen considerable change at TDA, in particular the move of the offices from Sydney to Canberra on the Reid campus of Canberra Institute of Technology. Craig has led a talented and committed team at the TDA and I thank them for their work and continued passion for TAFE and the sector.

The TDA Convention in Adelaide in September 2017 was extremely successful with over 468 delegates, and planning is well underway for the 2018 Convention in with the World Congress of Polytechnics and Colleges in Melbourne in October.

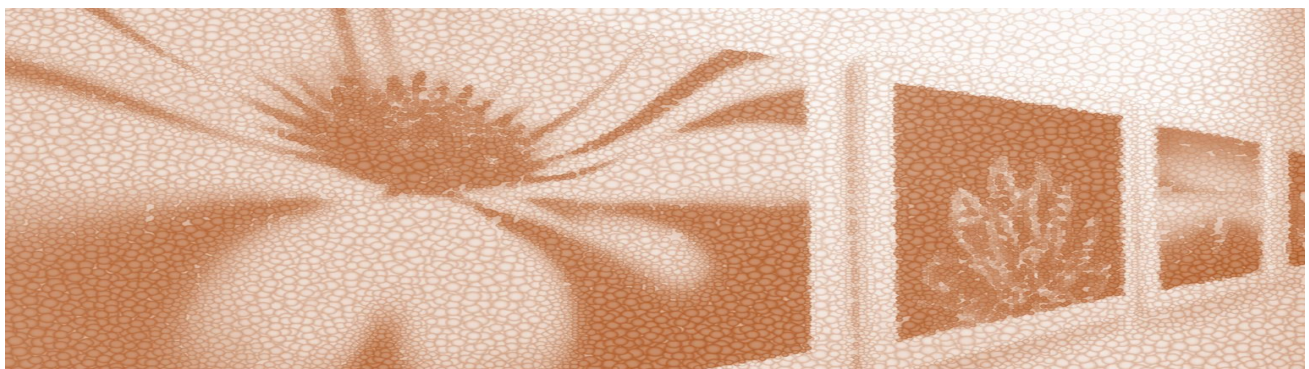
TDA continues to work for its members in positioning TAFE in the VET sector and advocating on behalf of the sector. The Board and CEO regularly meet with Commonwealth department representatives and appropriate Ministers, and the TDA continues to be invited on a number of ministerial and department committees.

The last 12 months has seen increased exposure for TDA through media and other channels and we look forward to greater engagement and advocacy with key stakeholders in the future.

I thank the CEO and the dedicated team at TDA, and thank the directors for their time, commitment and continued passion for the sector.



Mary FARAONE
Chair



THE CEO'S REPORT

Message from Craig Robertson

While TAFEs have always been of high importance to Australia's education landscape, the recognition of this importance continues to grow.

TAFE Directors Australia has worked with members, stakeholders and the federal Government during the 2017-18 financial year to raise important matters for the future of high quality vocational and higher education and the role of TAFEs.

Priority has been given this financial year to lifting the profile of TDA's contribution to national debate concerning tertiary education and training. TDA has been able to contribute through the media and submissions to Parliament on the clear and distinct role that TAFEs play in supporting economic growth for Australia. I have also enjoyed several speaking engagements through which I am also able to promote TAFEs.

I have also appreciated the opportunity to represent TAFEs in an international context. The TAFE model is highly regarded overseas and TDA staff often host overseas visitors interested in understanding TAFEs' capability and approach to teaching and learning. Along with TAFE colleagues, I have also had the pleasure of representing TAFEs in visits to China, Taiwan as well as Pakistan. The opportunities available to all TAFEs to support economic development and training in overseas countries are many, especially in some instances when being presented as AUSTRALIAN TAFEs. We continue to work closely with many government officials to grow the international business of TAFEs.

TDA enjoyed one of its largest Convention crowds at the 2017 Convention in Adelaide with over 400 delegates during the two and a half-day event. Most importantly, many TAFE staff and stakeholders were able to come together to discuss important policy and program issues. The Convention was practice for the Congress of the World Federation of Colleges and Polytechnics that TDA is conducting in Melbourne in October this year.

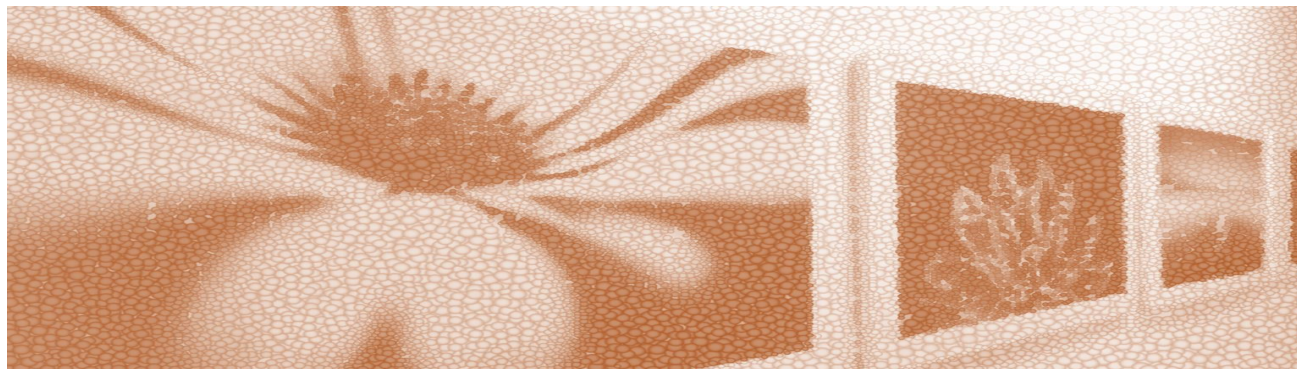
The year has been dominated, however, in supporting students of several high-profile VET FEE-HELP private providers which closed-down leaving many students stranded in the midst of their training. We have completed our responsibilities as a Tuition Assurance operator for these providers and remain in dialogue with the Government concerning the financial reconciliation for students who have sought their loan to be recredited by the Commonwealth. This is still not resolved at the time of writing this report and still presents as a risk to the ongoing operating environment for TDA.

My heartfelt thanks to the staff of TDA who operate closely together to represent all TAFEs. While we are a small team we have managed to deliver positive outcomes for the organisation, TAFEs and students and other members. We have worked hard to build productive working relationships with stakeholders in the sector, as together, we have sought to raise the profile and significance of TAFEs.

The support of the TDA Board has been vital. I am most thankful for the guidance from Mary Faraone, as Chair of the Board, and all other members as we have stepped through challenging times.



Craig ROBERTSON
Chief Executive Officer



PERFORMANCE ACROSS TDA'S STRATEGIC PLAN (2016-2018)

Making TAFE a Destination for all Learners

TAFE institutes across Australia are now operating in markets, where they compete not just with private providers, but also with universities, which are increasingly seeking to offer qualifications at the sub-bachelor level. TDA has continued to support members by advocating to government for greater national consistency in the implementation of competitive vocational and education training markets, in which TDA members are able to compete on equitable terms.

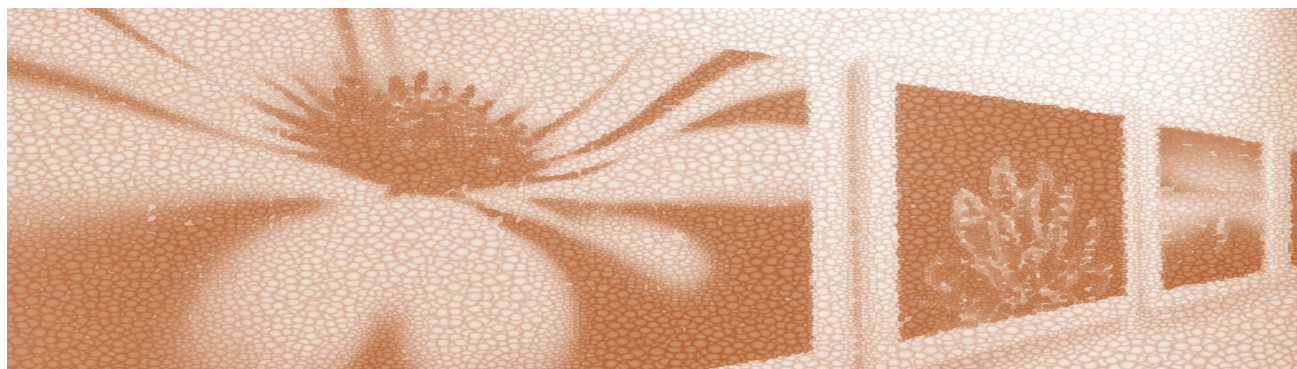
TDA's Strategic Plan 2016-18 'Quality and Trust' outlines our advocacy strategy along 5 pillars. TDA has taken action to establish a TAFE brand nationally based on the proven merits and cumulative experience of TAFE. To this end, we have engaged members, key stakeholders, and governments to develop and advance evidence-based policy positions, which support the key role played by TAFE.

To gain better insights into trends in VET delivery in Australia, TDA has adopted and implemented a data-driven approach and is constructing a solid base of evidence that underpin our various policy positions. Data sources include the National Centre for Vocational Education Research, the Department of Jobs and Small Business, the ABS (including the Longitudinal Study of Australian Youth), as well international comparators, including the OECD and CEDFOP in Europe.

In our submissions and advocacy positions, TDA has taken to tailoring messages more specifically to audiences, and around relevant themes.

One of TDA's key advocacy platforms is establishing parity of esteem between TAFE and higher education providers. To this end TDA has sought to establish strategic partnerships with a variety of organisations, with the particular aim of promoting the role of TAFE and TAFE pathways to the youth market. Moreover, two of TDA's submissions focused on how more effective career advice could be provided to Australian school leavers.

In addition to the submissions listed below, TDA engaged continually and at various stages with the review of the Australian Qualifications Framework, various consultations and reviews relating to higher education in TAFE, and reviews of training products.



Leadership in Policy Development

TDA Publications

Throughout 2016 and early 2017, TDA continued with an active publications portfolio, developing policy papers and submissions, as well as targeted media releases. Papers, submissions and media releases are available on TDA's website: www.tda.edu.au

TDA Policy Papers and Submissions 2017-18

TITLE	DATE
Submission to Labor	May 2018
VET Student Loans Separation	May 2018
Higher Education Support Legislation Amendment (Student Loan Sustainability)	Mar 2018
AQF Pre-Review	Feb 2018
Pre-Budget Submission	Feb 2018
Digital Economy	Dec 2017
Migration Amendment Bill	Dec 2017
Career Advice in Victorian Schools	Dec 2017
Submission into rural, regional and remote education	Aug 2017
The Contribution of VET to the Tertiary Education System	July 2017

Media Releases 2017-18

TITLE	DATE
Apprentice sector gets a kick start as states and territories sign on to national skills fund	09/06/2018
Time to end the \$1.4 billion tax slug that only applies to VET students	28/05/2018
Turnbull government continues to tax training and skills	17/05/2018
TAFE welcomes federal opposition pledge to modernise facilities and scrap fees	11/05/2018
Restoring TAFE to the regions recognised as an urgent national priority	17/04/2018
TAFE welcomes call for a national inquiry into post-school education	02/03/2018
TAFE welcomes call for a national inquiry into post-school education	02/03/2018
TAFE welcomes Business Council's bold plan for tertiary education	19/01/2018
Australian and international experts to identify skills needs for technology-driven jobs and innovation – TDA 2017 Convention	19/01/2018

Media Contact: Bob Bowden: 0412 753 298

INTERNATIONAL ENGAGEMENT

Engagement in Asia and Other International Markets

Australia's TAFEs are valued and recognised global skills development partners, and the 2017/2018 annual reporting period saw this confirmed with TDA invited to engage actively across a myriad of international activities.

TDA's advocacy and representational roles were well exercised through continued representation on the Federal Government's International Education Stakeholders Roundtable and the Education Visa Consultative Committee (EVCC), where issues around equity of access to visas and funding for vocational education and training providers internationally continue to be tabled. TDA coordinated a comprehensive response to the review of the first year of the Simplified Student Visa Program on behalf of TAFEs, highlighting concerns related to the value that is placed on a skilling education gained in Australia and the impact this perception has on visa decision making.

TDA and TAFE representatives were also invited to new or sessional committees, engaging strongly in Minister Andrews' *International VET Roundtable* and the Department of Education and Training's *Student Services Delivery Working Group* and the *Marketing and Communication Working Group*, to support the execution and implementation of the National Strategy for International Education.

TDA continued to develop productive relationships with Austrade and DFAT, engaging with Austrade on projects such as *Market Action Plans* (Indonesia and Vietnam), the *Where to Compete Matrix*, *Strategic Messaging Framework* and *Collaborating to Compete: Consortia*. TDA was especially engaged in the Strategic Messaging Framework to ensure that the messaging adequately covered skills development and technical training proof points.

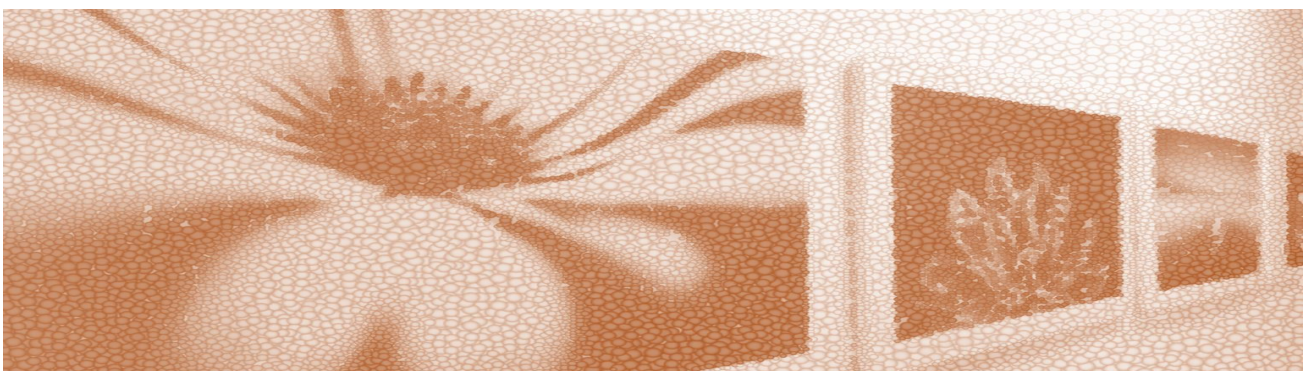
Significant inroads were made in progressing a productive working relationship with DFAT, with skills driven development starting to be recognised as a critical part of Australia's diplomacy, although there is still work to be done. In the latter half of 2017/2018 TDA was awarded a two-year contract to undertake a capacity development project in Bhutan, which will commence in 2018/19.

TDA coordinated TAFE participation and representation in offshore forums, including: partnering with the International Education Association of Australia to manage the skills program of an Education Summit in Jakarta; and, leading the skills stream of the ASEAN Education Dialogue in Penang, Malaysia. TDA and Australian TAFEs also participated in several activities in Chinese Taipei, a key strategic partner for TDA, with these activities to continue in 2018/2019.

TDA continued to welcome delegations from across the world, ranging from several delegations from China to the UAE and Saudi Arabia, through to Sweden, Nepal, Peru, Mexico, Chile and beyond. TDA also nurtured relationships with key partners, particularly the Chinese Education Association for International Exchange and the World Federation of Colleges and Polytechnics.

TAFEs have been kept well-informed of activities through TDA's Australian TAFE International Network (ATIN).

2018/2019 is set to be an extraordinarily active year for Australian TAFEs globally with planned activities with several key partners, including China, and most notably, TDA and TAFES due to host the biennial Congress for the World Federation of Colleges and Polytechnics in October 2018. The future of TAFEs internationally looks bright indeed.



MEMBER SERVICES

2017 TDA Convention - Adelaide



The 2017 TDA Convention was held at the Adelaide Hilton on Thursday 7 and Friday 8 September with the Welcome Reception at Adelaide Oval on Wednesday 6 September.

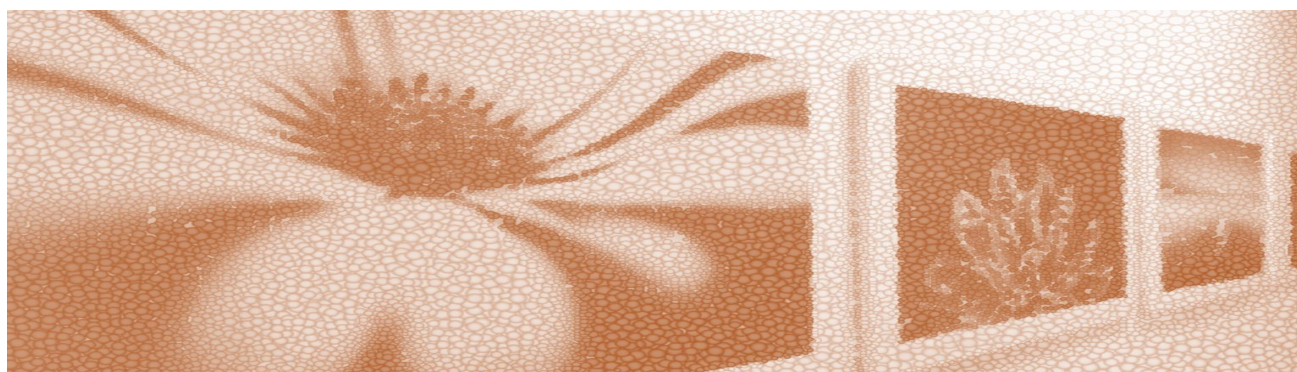
The overarching theme was 'Networked TAFE', reflecting TAFE Institutes connections with a network of individuals, communities, enterprises, industries and governments, both in Australia and overseas.

Speakers and delegates explored topics including: Working in the 21st Century; Learning Experiences and Outcomes; Matters of Leadership; Energy Roadmaps; and What we can Learn from Other Countries?

The Convention enjoyed an attendance of over 468 delegates and brought together members of TAFE governing Boards, CEOs, managing directors, emerging leaders, program coordinators, international experts, business development managers, international education practitioners, teaching staff, federal and state government officers, researchers, policy makers and representatives of industry.

Our conventions have become a networking hub for vocational education and training leaders from around the world. The Adelaide Convention was joined by delegates from the UK, USA, India, Singapore, Fiji, Indonesia and China.

The 2018 World Congress of the World Federation of Polytechnics and Colleges, "Preparing for the Skills Future, Now", is in the planning stages and is to be hosted by Melbourne in October.



TUITION ASSURANCE SERVICES

TDA's Tuition Assurance Scheme (TAS), for both TAFEs and for private sector registered training organisations, closed on 31 December 2017 as a result of the Commonwealth Government deciding, in late November 2017, to take in-house tuition assurance arrangements for Commonwealth FEE-HELP student tuition loan schemes, including for VET Student Loans, for at least 2019. This decision, by the Commonwealth Government, resulted in TDA no longer being liable for any course or training provider closures of TDA TAS members from that date.

During 2018 TDA continued to manage, and incur operating costs, from the fallout of three TDA TAS members closing during 2017. In particular, the closure of the Careers Australia Education Institute Pty Ltd and the Australian School of Management Pty Ltd has resulted in TDA contacting over 6,200 students and assisting, in some form, over 3,700 students, with over 1,700 students seeking to continue their course of study mostly with a TAFE. TDA continues to work collaboratively with the Commonwealth, in the best interests of all students displaced by private provider closures, to bring all TAS matters to a fair and timely conclusion before the end of 2018.

Corporate Affiliates Program

TDA acknowledges significant support from our two corporate affiliates: ProLearn and TechnologyOne.

Our corporate affiliates receive a range of benefits that demonstrate our appreciation and highlight their commitment across multiple platforms, including branding and acknowledgement at the annual TDA Convention, e-newsletters, advertising in the quarterly TAFE Futures magazine and through the TDA and annual convention websites. They gain greater exposure on campus and have access and visibility to the top VET thought leaders.

Having corporate affiliates of this calibre demonstrates that TDA has strategic partnerships with industry bodies supporting the education sector.



Image: Technologyone, ProLearn logos

MEMBER COMMUNICATIONS

TDA communicates regularly with members, partners and stakeholders using a variety of platforms, including emails, newsletters, meetings, publications, surveys, submissions and press releases. Members are provided with information and support via the TDA newsletter, and email correspondence from the TDA Chief Executive, and the Secretariat team.

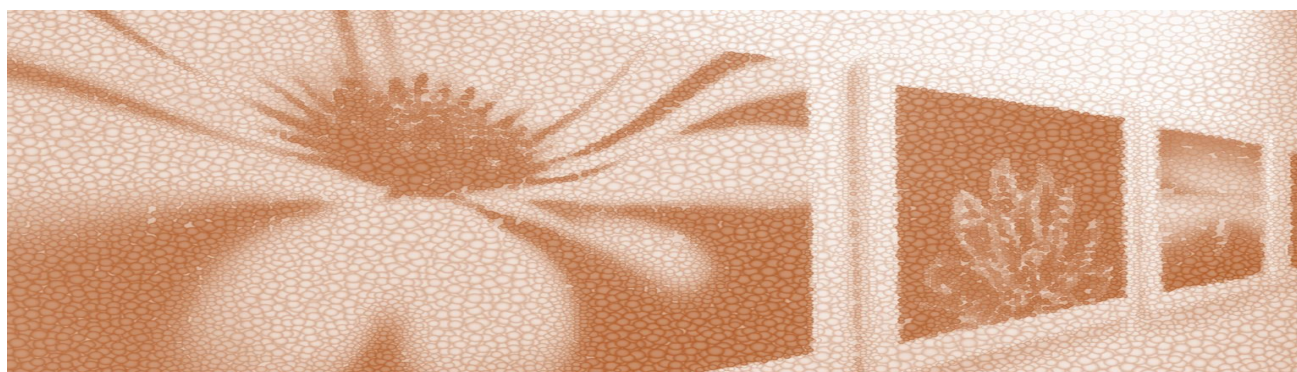
The weekly newsletter is distributed to more than 1,600 member and non-member subscribers, including TAFE and industry leaders, international partners, and government policymakers. It shares TDA's national and international ventures, and updates members on the latest industry news, government policies, training reviews and upcoming events.

Communications materials, including TDA newsletters, media releases, submissions and policy documents can be accessed through the TDA website: www.tda.edu.au.

TDA has continued to consult regularly with members to shape TDA's position on a variety of national policy areas, through a range of strategies including:

TDA Representatives – TDA members or their nominated representatives will continue to represent TDA on a number of key external committees and forums, hence providing a TDA voice. Regular reports to the TDA Board support TDA collaboration with stakeholders and support TDA work on implementation of the VET Reform Process.

TDA Public Presentations - TDA CEO and Secretariat staff have delivered presentations to a range of audiences, both domestic and international. These engagements add to the VET knowledge and debate and hence contribute to VET policy and ongoing conversation/discussion regarding the VET reform processes.



PRESENTATIONS	DATE
TEQSA Provider Forum Paul Whitelaw- William Angliss Institute on behalf of TDA	Jun 2018
All Colleges Conference ACT Andre Diez De Aux , TAFE Directors Australia	Feb 2018
Presentation to an American group of Doctoral Students - Melbourne Craig Robertson, CEO, TAFE Directors Australia	Feb 2018
University of Canberra Andre Diez De Aux , TAFE Directors Australia	Jan 2018
BOSS Financial Review – Leadership Summit Keynote Speaker: Craig Robertson, CEO, TAFE Directors Australia	Nov 2017
TEQSA Conference – “Students, Quality, Success” “A View From the Peaks” Panelist: Craig Robertson, CEO, TAFE Directors Australia	Nov 2017
Canberra Business Community at Ernst & Young, regarding Jobs Agenda Andre Diez De Aux , TAFE Directors Australia	Nov 2017
Queensland & Northern Territory AUSTAFE National Convention - “Turning Together for Success” <i>An update on VET policy and its implications for TAFE from a national perspective</i> Speaker: Craig Robertson, CEO, TAFE Directors Australia	Oct 2017
National Vocation and Technical Training Commission (NAVITC) National Skills Show/Job – Islamabad Invited Guest: Craig Robertson, CEO, TAFE Directors Australia	Oct 2017
BIBB Andre Diez De Aux , TAFE Directors Australia	Oct 2017
AUSTAFE - Brisbane Craig Robertson and Andre Diez De Aux	Oct 2017
Networked TAFE - TDA Convention – Craig Robertson <i>Reshaping training products to be aligned to the modern economy Are current training products fit for training the workforce of 21st century? If not, is it an issue of Training Package architecture or implementation?</i> Facilitator: Craig Robertson, CEO, TAFE Directors Australia	Sept 2017
“TAFE in the current national VET environment – a TDA perspective” Address: Pam Caven, TDA Policy and Stakeholder Engagement Director	Aug 2017
Third International Corporation Summit of Chinese Vocational Education - China Andre Diez De Aux , TAFE Directors Australia	Aug 2017
Wodonga TAFE Knowledge Share Day <i>TDA perspective on federal plans impacting on the tertiary TAFE sector – the potential growth of HE associate degrees/advanced diploma</i> Keynote Address: Craig Robertson, CEO, TAFE Directors Australia	July 2017

NATIONAL SCHOLARSHIPS FOUNDATION – CHAIRMAN’S REPORT

Message from Malcolm White

The fifth year of operations of the Foundation saw the continued disbursement scholarships that were made possible by the relationships with, and support from, TAFEs, donors and sponsors.

Working with a number of TAFEs, the Foundation awarded 109 TAFE National Scholarships during the financial year. This has brought the total number of scholarships to approximately 900 since the Foundation commenced operations in 2013.

The most significant continuing relationship was with TAFE Queensland which signed a jurisdiction-wide agreement in 2015 and offered scholarships to students throughout its six regions.

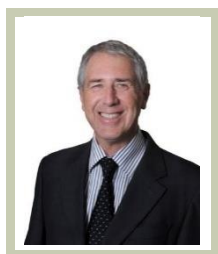
TAFE NSW, Sydney, also continued its relationship with the Foundation following its 2015 agreement. A small number of TAFEs in other States worked with the Foundation to provide scholarships, many providing co-contributions.

The Blake Beckett Trust provided financial support for Mick Young scholarships for students in Western Sydney and South Australia. This support, which was received over the period 2013 to 2017, provided many valued scholarships and was greatly appreciated.

In looking ahead over the next one to three years the directors have noted two significant trends; firstly, that many TAFE Institutes would prefer to set up their own scholarship foundations, and secondly, a decrease in funds available from TAFE Institutes to support the Foundation. The directors have therefore concluded that the need for a national scholarship organisation has lessened since the Foundation was registered in 2012. As a consequence of this assessment, the directors have resolved to conduct an orderly wind-up of the Foundation during the 2018 – 2019 year.

The directors acknowledge the allocation of time and expertise provided by the TAFE Directors Australia secretariat in supporting the Foundation’s operations during the year.

Finally, I would like to acknowledge the efforts and commitment of my fellow directors who join with me to acknowledge the work and commitment of our Executive Officer, Gretchel Trost, who recently concluded her role.



Malcolm WHITE

Chair

TAFE Directors Australia National Scholarships Foundation

TDA NATIONAL SECRETARIAT

Craig Robertson | Chief Executive Officer

Rachael Axford | Chief Financial Officer

Ronald Jackson | Director Strategy and Tertiary Financing

Jennifer Bahen | Director International Engagement and Business Development

Andre Diez de Aux | Director Quality Services

Pam Caven | Director Policy and Stakeholder Engagement (*finished Dec 2017*)

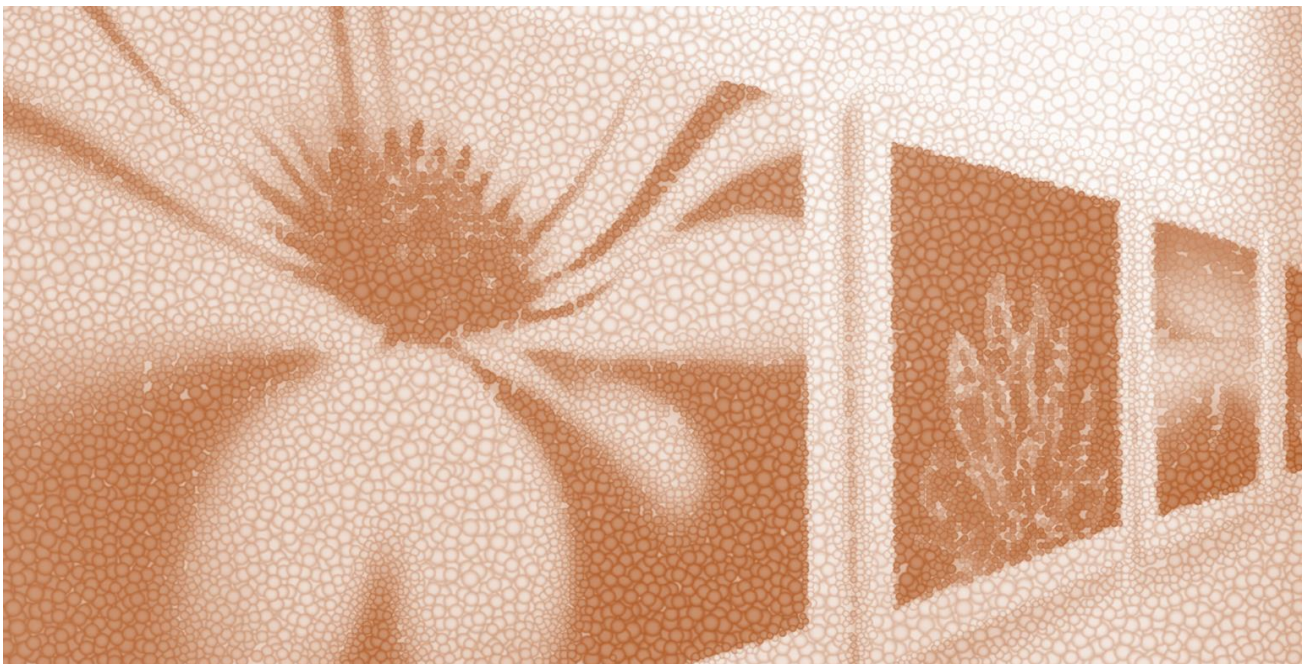
Lyndal Manson | Manager Policy Research and TAS Operations

Malcolm White | Chair, TDA National Scholarships Foundation (NSF)

Gretchel Trost | Executive Officer, TDA NSF | TAS Administrator (*finished July 2018*)

Kathy Zhao | Bookkeeper (*finished October 2017*)

Janine Clark | Office Administrator



COMPANY INFORMATION

TAFE Directors Australia

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