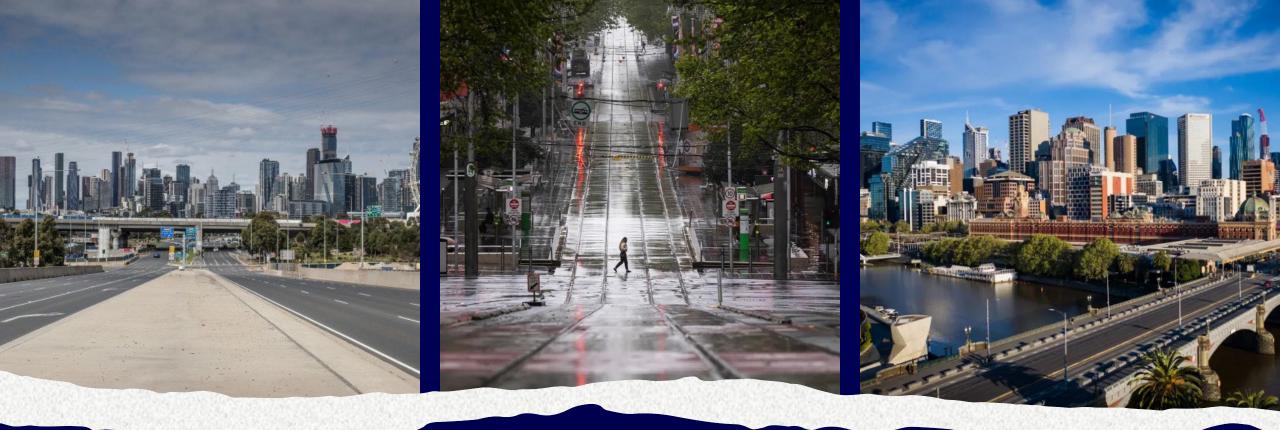
Mish Eastman

Deputy Vice Chancellor and Vice President

College of Vocational Education, RMIT University







During the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020, Australian universities shed at least 17,300 jobs and lost an estimated \$1.8 billion in revenue compared to 2019.

POSITIVE LEADERSHIP DURING A CRISIS



WELCOME TO THE UNKNOWN

Learning skills in how to navigate major change



BE EXPERIMENTAL

Never underestimate the skills of your people (and provide the authorizing environment to fail safely)

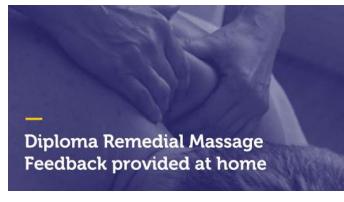


FIND BALANCE

Knowing when to accelerate and when to pause

What it looked like in practice

Employing digital platforms to simulate real life, simulating work-place conditions, student centric approaches



RMIT was one of a few providers to continue delivery of this intensely practical qualification using Colaborate Ultra, students uploading video evidence and staff providing individualised feedback.



Students' work was showcased using virtual exhibition spaces, increasing opportunities for student collaboration, building 'soft' skills (teamwork, problem solving and communication) and resulting in increased exhibition attendance.



Trades teachers undertook intensive Canvas PD to shift theory content online, removing 'chalk and talk' and providing students with flexibility to do theory units anywhere, anytime. Having broken through old ways of working, teachers are eager to continue with this new model of delivery.



Use of a digital platform giving students access to global organisations including Parson School of Design, Fashion Institute of Technology in NYC, global brands and fashion retailers.



To support learning from home, studio materials were posted to Visual Arts students. To model sustainability, the packaging formed part of the learning activities.



An RMIT virtual practice firm, with client files, videos, documentation, etc. was deployed to meet assessment requirements and build students' real-world skills.

Gender doesn't explain everything, it doesn't explain nothing, it explains some things.

-JULIA GILLARD