

# TAFETalks

## Enhancing Student Futures with Digital Proficiency

**Angela Ryan**

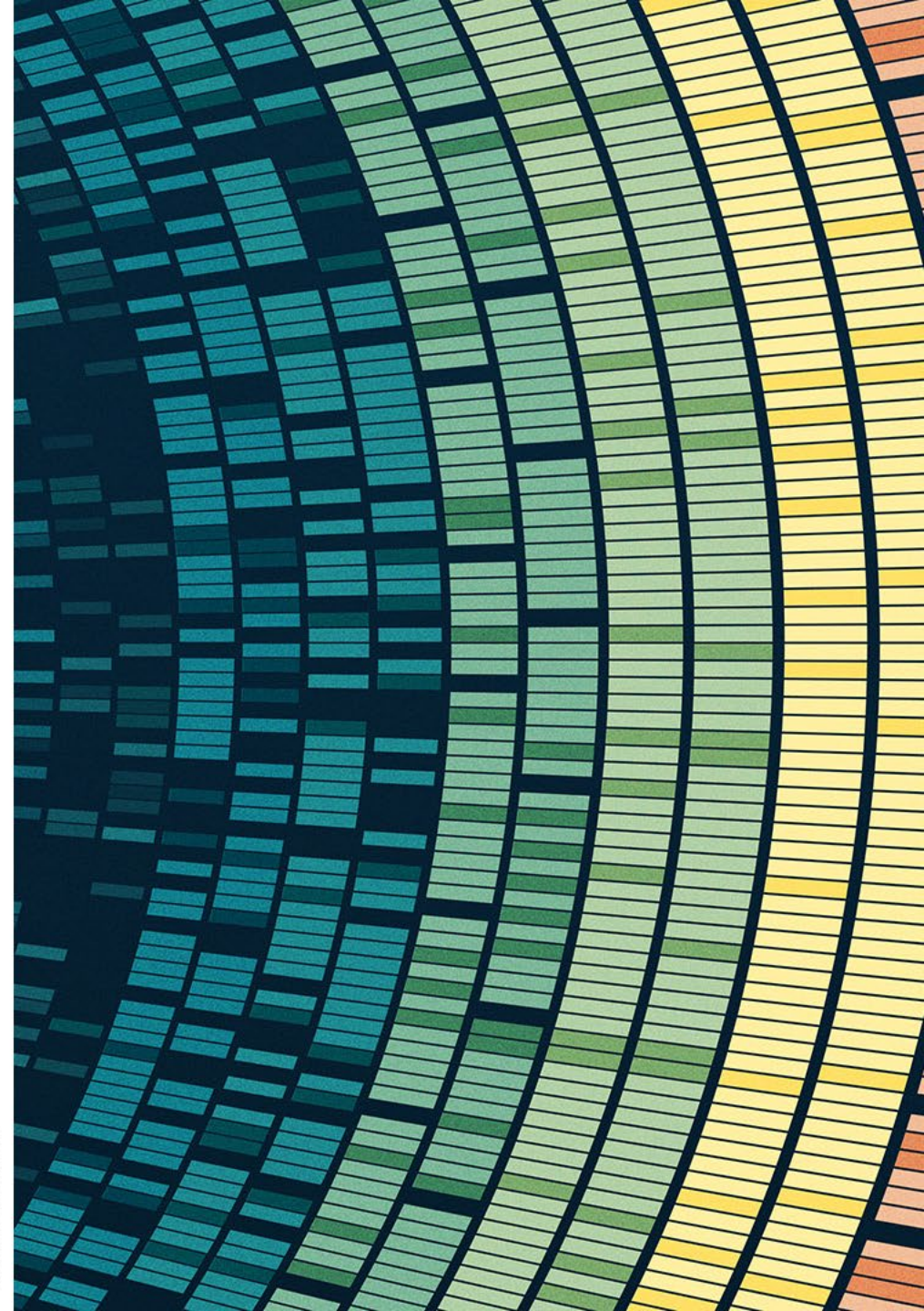
Head of Department, Teacher Capability  
Canberra Institute of Technology

**Al Briggs**

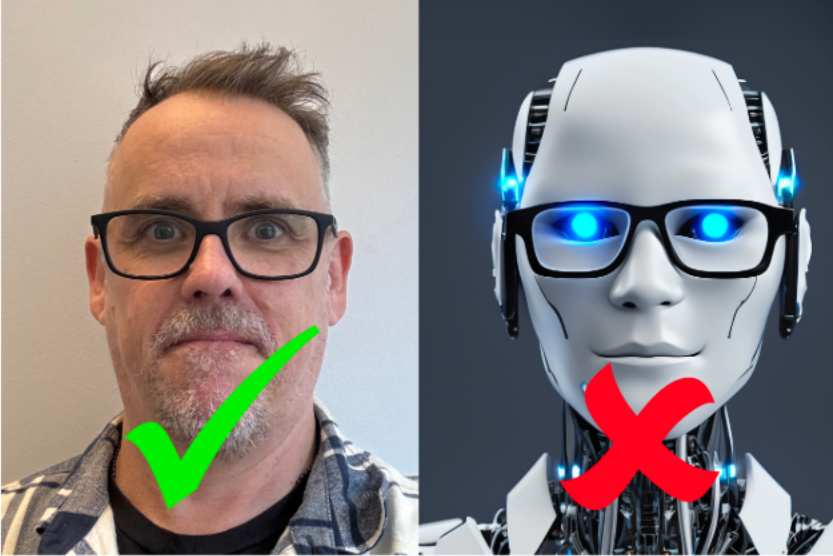
Strategic Development Manager - Higher Education  
Adobe



Image by Arthead



# AI, not AI



## Al Briggs | Strategic Development Manager - Higher Education

- 21 years in tertiary education - key focus on fostering digital literacy and fluency in students and academic staff
- 24 years in the graphic design industry, using and teaching Adobe tools

# Perspectives: Digital Literacy and GenAI

*"Australian workers now need to be digitally literate, creative, collaborative, good communicators, and able to solve complex problems ... Our tertiary education providers must teach these skills more effectively"*

Australian Universities Accord (2023)

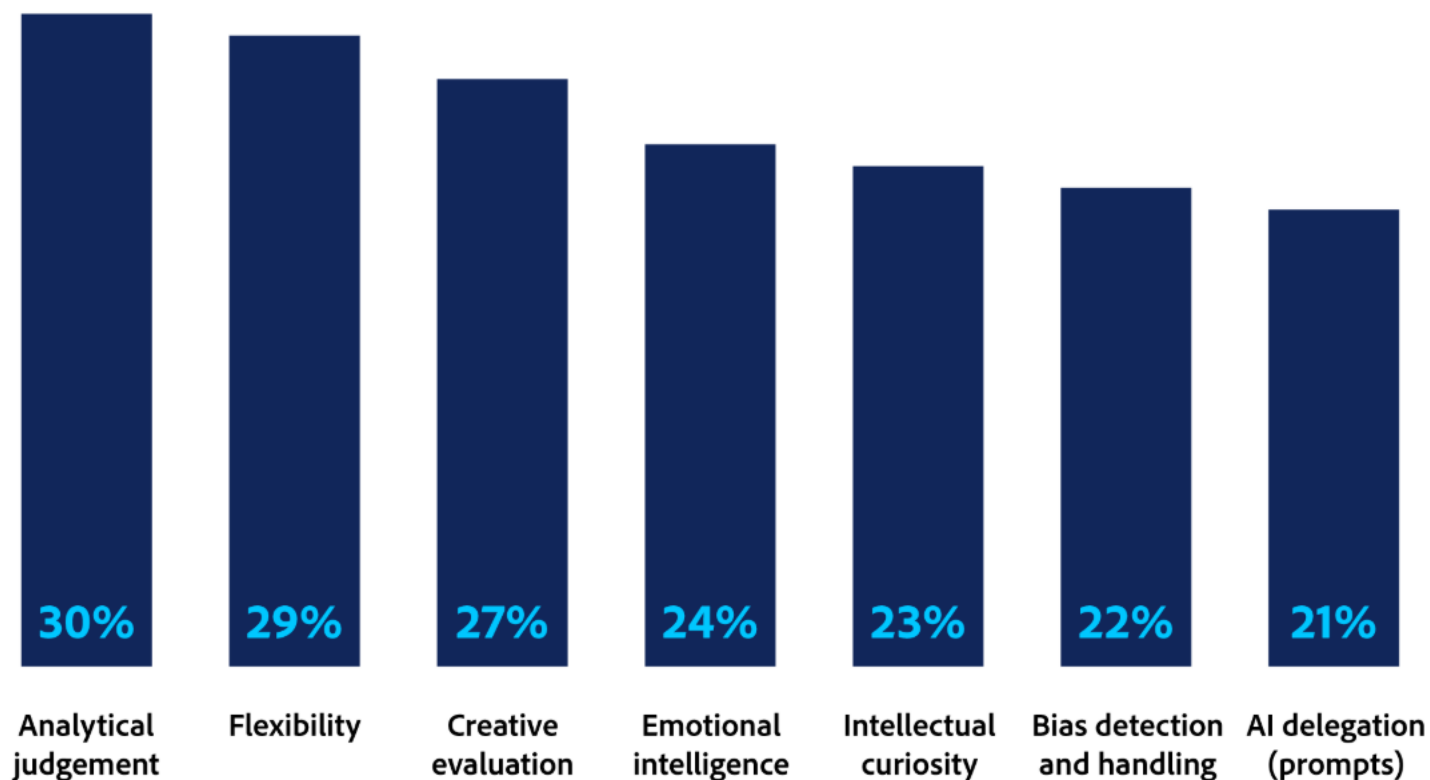
# Perspectives: Digital Literacy and GenAI



World Economic Forum, Future of Jobs Report 2023

# Perspectives: Digital Literacy and GenAI

Most essential future employee skills in an AI-powered future



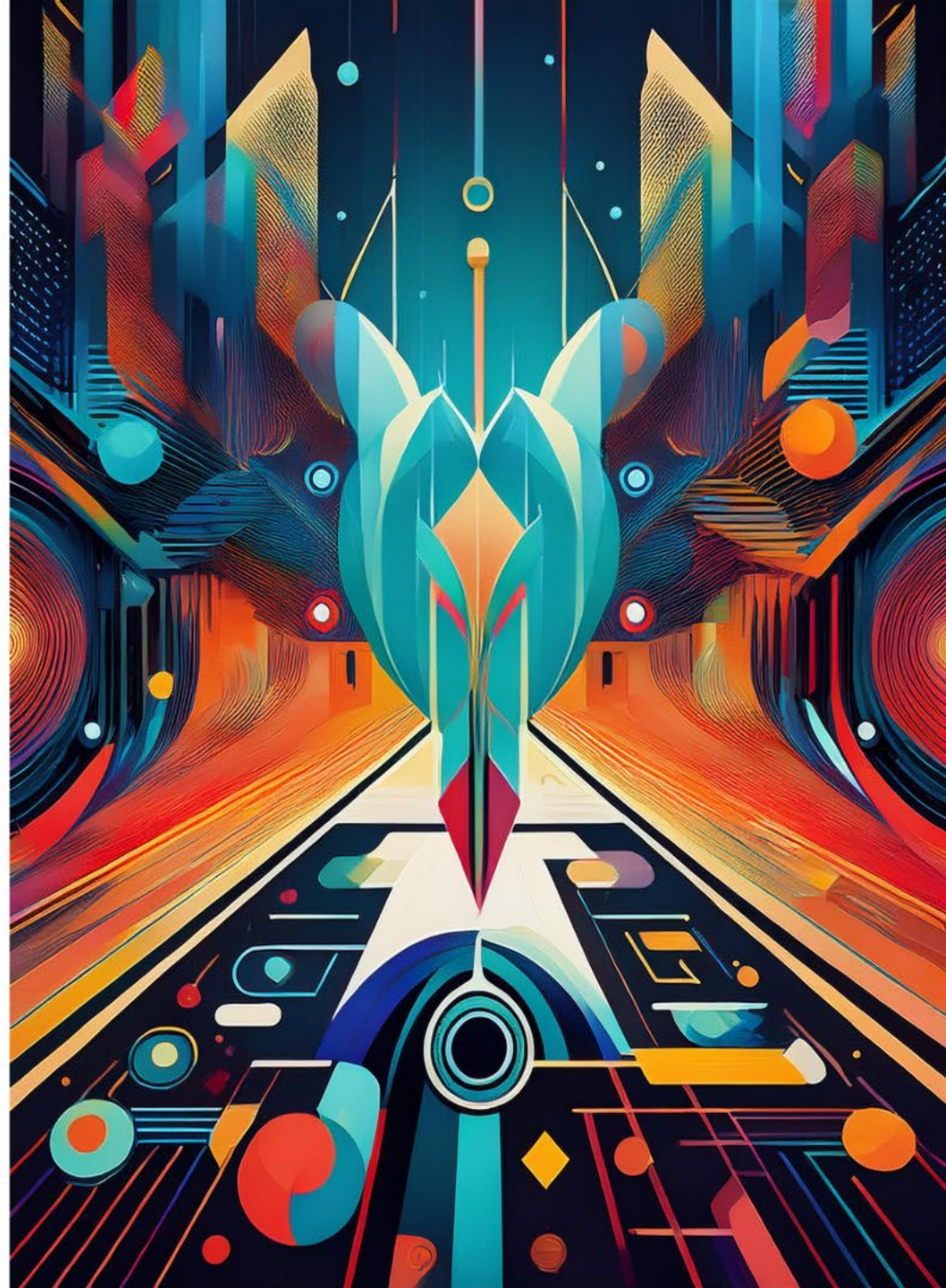
Microsoft Work Trend Index Report 2023

# The opportunity

*"Generative AI will have a substantial impact on the future of work and the trajectory of inequality. The nature of that impact is not an inevitable consequence of the technology itself but instead depends on how society develops and shapes AI."*

*Acemoglu, Autor & Johnson, 2023*

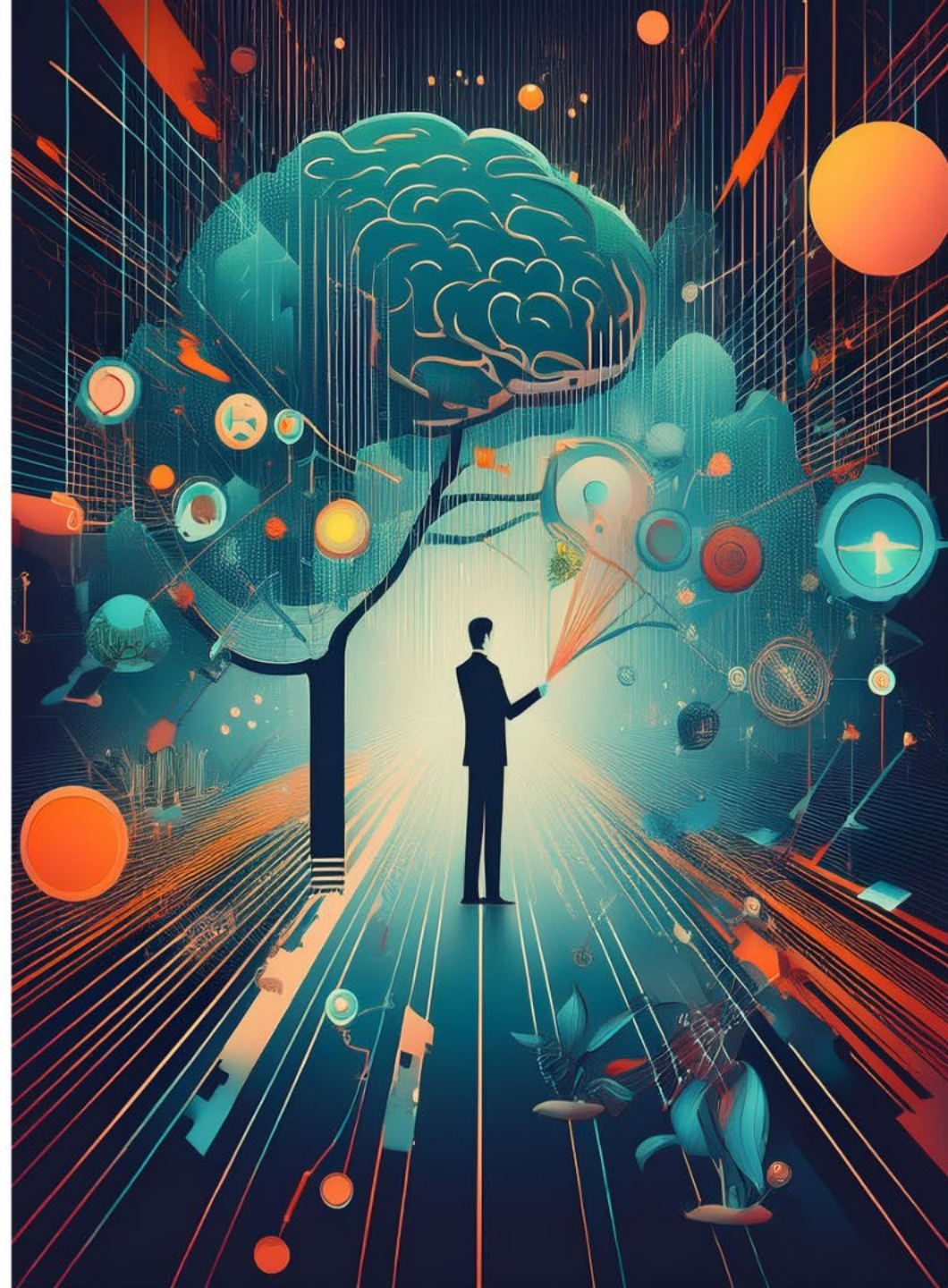
Prompt: Quoted text above



# Digital fluency

*"A digitally fluent person can evolve with the rapidly shifting digital landscape, quickly adapting to new applications and methods as well as emerging contextual issues."*

Mo Pelzel, 2019



# The prompt

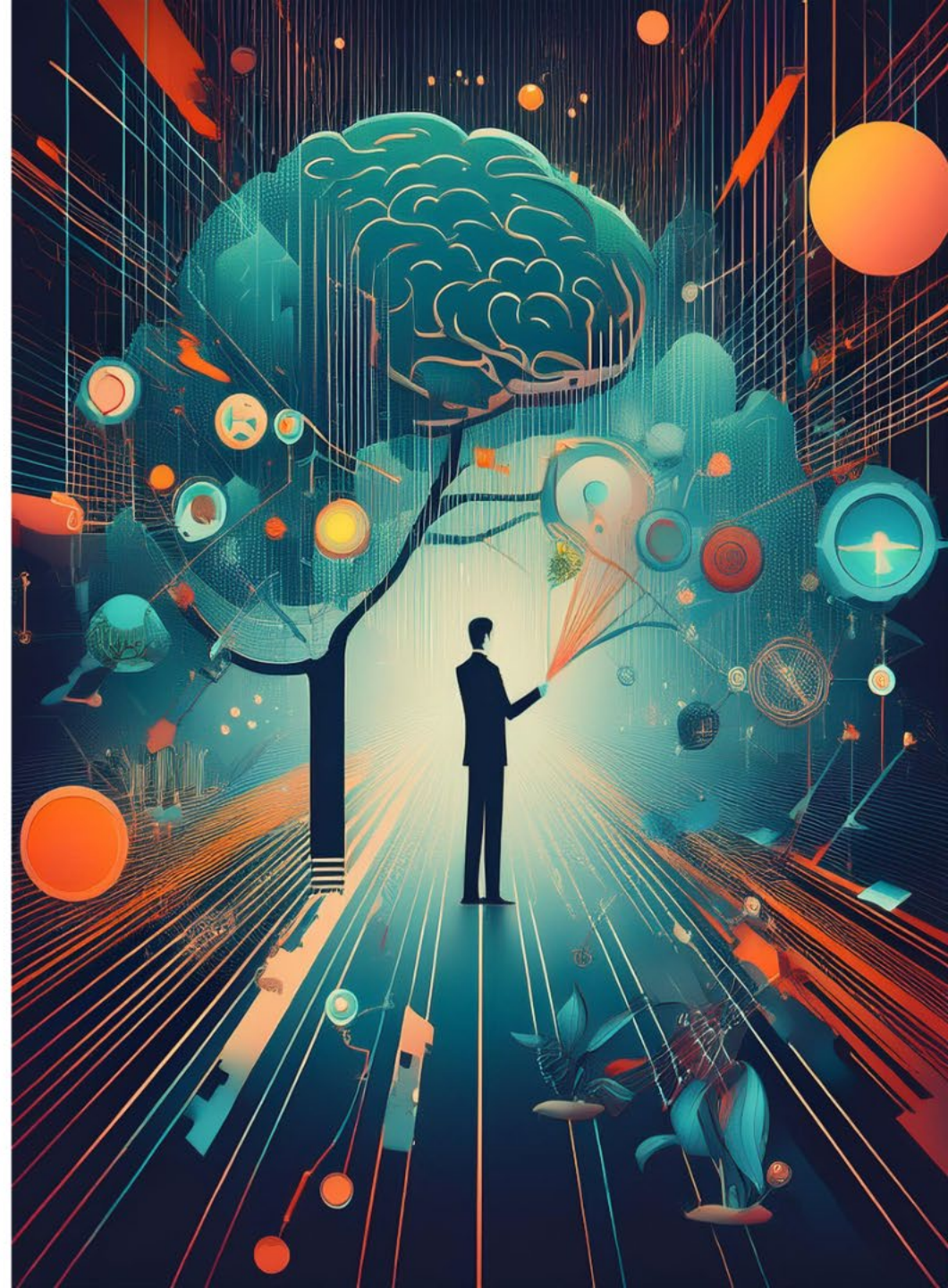
Prepare students for a rapidly evolving digital future by equipping them to be **agile, critical, creative and confident** users of technologies

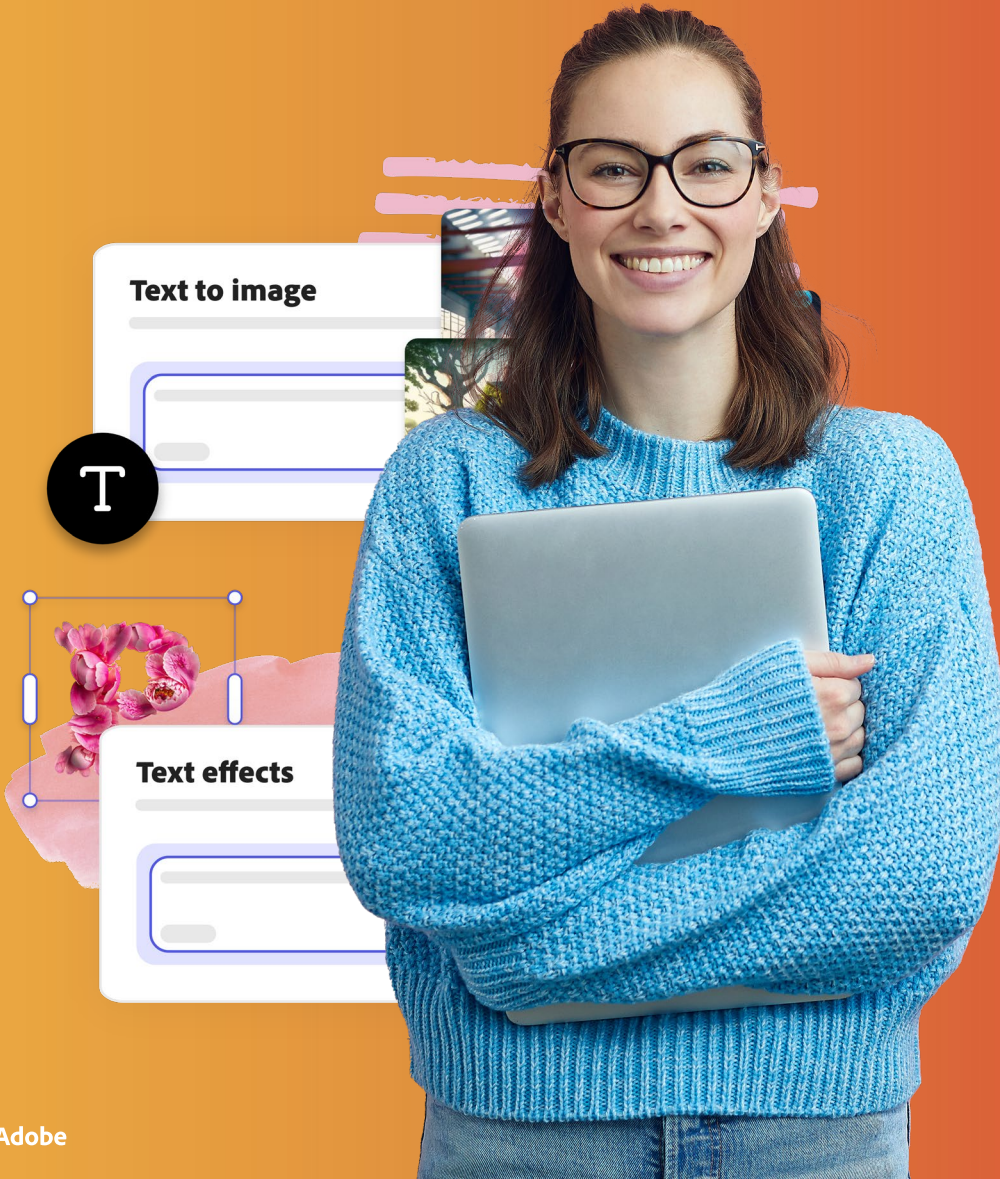


# Digital fluency

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Adobe Express is revolutionizing how *all* students demonstrate digital fluency and communicate visually

# Digital Confidence in the VET sector



# Let's set the national scene...

- Draft Revised RTO Standards
  - VET Workforce Blueprint
  - FSO JSC and Foundation Skills
  - Australian Digital Capability Framework
- 
- Employers want graduates to innovate and lead digital transformation in the workplace



# Draft Revised RTO Standards (Outcomes Standards)

**Clause 1.1** (c) training is **structured and paced** to support VET students to progress, providing sufficient time for instruction, practice, feedback and assessment and

(d) training techniques, activities and resources **engage VET students** and support their understanding

**Clause 3.1** – RTO demonstrates: (b) it facilitates access to **continuing professional development for staff to enable them to effectively perform their roles.**

**Clause 3.2** (c) how it ensures each trainer and assessor **undertakes continuing professional development to maintain current skills and knowledge in training and assessment, including engaging and supporting VET students.**

# VET Workforce Blueprint

Key goals of the Blueprint are to:

1. Grow the VET workforce
2. Retain and develop the VET workforce
3. Understand us!

*It is the shared ambition of all Skills Ministers that our **VET workforce is dynamic and inclusive and can help learners gain the skills they need for the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead.** This includes the move to ..... **technological transformation and broader global and economic shifts.***

The Blueprint identifies eight opportunities and 14 actions to attract, retain, develop and support the sustainability of the VET workforce.

Australian Government investing up to \$100 million over 5 years through the NSA.

# Future Skills Organisation (FSO) JSC and Foundation Skills

- Current project to test a new approach to qualification design to build digital capability and aims to develop and test an innovative new approach to qualification design underpinned by:
- Qualification Reform Design Group - March 2024 update - Department of Employment and Workplace Relations, Australian Government ([dewr.gov.au](http://dewr.gov.au)) and
- Australian Digital Capability Framework - DEWR

# Australian Digital Capability Framework (ADCF)

- The Framework describes broad digital capabilities required by the Australian workforce.
- Five focus areas e.g. Communication and Collaboration
- Four Proficiency Levels: Foundation, Intermediate, Advanced and Specialised



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**How do you see the role of vocational education evolving in the next 2-3 years?**

**What are the most critical digital skills that students need to develop today?**

**How can educators stay updated with the rapid advancements in AI and digital technologies?**

**What strategies has CIT implemented to address the digital skills gap among students and staff?**

**How does CIT support educators in building their own digital confidence?**

**What are the biggest challenges TAFE educators face in adopting digital tools?**

**How can institutions support educators in overcoming these challenges?**

**How can students leverage their digital skills to build personal brands and stand out in the job market?**

**What role do you think AI will play in the future of vocational education?**