

CALL FOR ABSTRACTS

Australian Council of Deans of Education Vocational Education Group (ACDEVEG)

Annual Conference on VET Teaching and VET Teacher Education

“Leading Learning at the Frontiers of Change: The Essential Role of the VET Teaching Workforce”

3-4 December 2026, Federation University SMB TAFE Campus, Ballarat

ABOUT THE CONFERENCE

ACDEVEG, a Network of the Australian Council of Deans of Education, is pleased to host its twelfth annual conference on VET teaching and VET teacher education.

The conference will be held on Thursday 3 December (2.00pm – 5.00pm AEST) and Friday 4 December (9.00am – 4.00pm AEST). *Precise times will be confirmed.*

The conference will be held at Federation University’s historic SMB TAFE Campus, Lydiard Street, Ballarat, approximately a 10-minute walk from Ballarat Railway Station and airport shuttle bus. ([Map available here](#))

FEATURED SPEAKERS

- Keynote Speaker: Vikki Smith, Executive Director Education and Standards, Education Training Foundation, UK.
- Panel of experts including Teressa Schmidt (TAFE Directors Australia), Andrew Shea (Skilled Nation) and Elaine Gillespie (Australian Education Union)

CALL FOR ABSTRACTS

Abstracts are now invited for presentations and workshops relating to VET teacher or VET teacher education.

Research-based presentations

We welcome contributions based on original research, evaluation or analysis of existing data on issues relevant to VET teaching and VET teacher education. Presentations may report completed research or research in progress. Proposals should clearly articulate:

- Research questions
- Methodology
- Key findings or emerging insights

They should not simply describe a program or initiative.

Practitioner workshops

We welcome interactive workshop proposals focused on issues relevant to VET teaching, VET teacher education and professional practice. Workshops should actively engage participants in exploring practical challenges, innovations or professional learning.

Possible topics could include:

- Collaboratively examining a teaching and learning issue that is common in VET practice.
- Presenting a teaching or training innovation or project, whether implemented or planned, and inviting feedback from colleagues acting as critical friends.
- Sharing innovations in VET teacher education or professional development and exploring their implications for practice.

KEY DATES

- **Abstract submissions close: Friday 4 September 2026**
- **Authors notified: Friday 18 September 2026**

SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

Please submit:

- An abstract of 250-350 words
- By Friday 4 September 2026
- To ACDEVEG2020@federation.edu.au
- With “**Abstract**” included in the email subject line.

Please also include (not included in the word limit):

- Presenter name, email address and phone number
- Organisation and position
- Names and affiliations of any co-presenters
- A 100-word biography (for presenter only)
- Whether the submission is for a research presentation or practitioner workshop

RESEARCH-BASED PRESENTATION - Abstract Structure and Selection Criteria

Please include the following

- Title of the presentation
- A two to three sentence summary
- Research question/s being investigated
- Rationale for this research
- Research methodology
- Summary of key/emerging findings
- Potential significance of the findings and for what/whom
- Up to five key scholarly references.

Selection criteria

- Relevance of the topic to VET teaching and/or VET teacher education
- Likely interest to conference participants
- Originality or potential to add to existing scholarship.
- Conceptual, methodological and/or theoretical soundness
- Coherence and clarity of written expression.
- Reference to appropriate literature.

PRACTITIONER WORKSHOP - Abstract Structure and Selection Criteria

Please include the following

- Title of the workshop
- Practice/issue addressed
- Rationale for this workshop
- Suggested audience
- Topics to be covered
- Summary of proposed participant activities.
- Potential outcomes.

Selection criteria

- Relevance of the practice or project approach to VET teaching and/or VET teacher education.
- Likely interest to conference participants
- Potential for active engagement by the participants, eg brainstorming ideas, imagining solutions/possibilities and discussion during the session.
- The presenter's relevant experience

ENQUIRIES

If you would like to discuss the suitability of your proposal, require assistance in preparing your abstract or wish to see examples of successful abstracts, please contact ACDEVEG2020@federation.edu.au

Conference updates will be posted on the ACDE website <https://acde.edu.au/networks/acdeveg/>