

Training

Kell, Peter 2006, *TAFE futures: An inquiry into the future of technical and further education in Australia* [Online] [Accessed 23 October 2006]

The TAFE Futures Inquiry was commissioned by the Australian Education Union in 2006. The TAFE Futures report is divided into the following parts:

- a background about TAFE and context for this report. This section summarises some of the developments that have led to the commissioning of the TAFE Futures Inquiry.
- a summary of the national consultations conducted from 1 July 2006 until 15 August 2006. More than 80 consultations were held in capital cities, regional centres and by teleconference.
- a summary of the 102 submissions received by TAFE Futures
- the proposals for renewal and change.

Skills

Buchanan, John 2006, *From 'skill shortages' to decent work: The role of better skill ecosystems* [Online], NSW Department of Education and Training, Sydney. [Accessed 23 October 2006]

BVET decided in 2005 that it was time to take stock of the changes in policy and practice, as well as more recent research outcomes, in the four years following the release of *Beyond Flexibility*, and particularly at the implications of these developments for skills policy. This report, *'From 'skill shortages' to decent work: The role of better skill ecosystems'*, provides this reassessment.

The report begins by analysing new approaches to skills challenges, here and overseas. The author examines the three underlying concepts – of labour productivity, decent work, and coordination failures – that provide the key to 'making sense of current and emerging challenges concerning skills'. Finally, the report outlines the shape of a new program that would achieve the 'better links between workforce and business development' that are necessary if we are to depart from our 'current trajectory of both wasted skills and the sweating of skills to a future based on sustainable work, with time for renewal and upgrading of skill at work and beyond'.

Culley, Mark 2006, *Kirby comes of age: the birth, difficult adolescence, and future prospects of traineeships* [Online], Dusseldorp Skills Forum, Glebe NSW. [Accessed 23 October 2006]

This report aims to analyse what traineeships are today, who's using them, how they have changed over time and the implications of all this for the current 'skills crisis'.

Building Communities

Outer Suburban/Interface Services and Development Committee 2006, *Building new communities* [Online], Parliament of Victoria, Melbourne.

This report is about building stronger communities in Melbourne's rapidly growing urban-rural 'Interface' areas. The Committee's core finding in this report is that good urban design alone is not enough to build successful new communities in the context of rapid growth and demographic change. More can be done to assist and empower communities to work through their own issues by supporting the individuals and community groups that sustain social cohesion, by removing impediments to community action and by encouraging and being more open to engagement by citizens.

Skilled Migration

Australian Manufacturing Workers Union 2006, *Temporary skilled migration: A new form of indentured servitude* [Online] [Accessed 23 October 2006]

This report was produced in response to the alarming growth in the use of temporary skilled migration in the Australian economy in the last 5 years. It seeks to examine the growth of temporary skilled migration, especially the increased use of Temporary Business (Long Stay) visa (Subclass 457), in the context of Australia's skills formation system and the impact of this on our economy, the migrants themselves and society in general. [Taken from Executive Summary]

Joint Standing Committee on Migration 2006, *Negotiating the maze: Review of arrangements for overseas skills recognition, upgrading and licensing* [Online], Joint Standing Committee, Canberra. [Accessed 23 October 2006]

This is the final report of the committee's inquiry into skills recognition, upgrading and licensing. The report examines the structural barriers that hamper the efficient recognition of skills of those trained overseas. Its recommendations contribute to further policy development in skills recognition and licensing, to promote greater labour mobility and address skills shortages.

Khoo, Siew-Ean, McDonald, Peter & Hugo, Graeme 2006, *Temporary skilled migrants' employment and residence outcomes: findings from the follow-up survey of 457 visa holders* [Online] [Accessed 23 October 2006]

A survey of skilled temporary migrants in Australia on the 457 visa was conducted in 2003-04 by the Australian Centre for Population Research of the Australian National University and the University of Adelaide, with the collaboration of the Department of Immigration and Multicultural and Indigenous Affairs.

This report discusses the findings from the follow-up survey of 457 visa holders, focussing on the changes that have occurred in their employment and residence status over the course of a year. It also examines whether their views about their Australian work experience have changed during the one-year period. The follow-up survey also collected information about migrants' contact with various community and government agencies, use of hospital services and receipt of government payments. Findings on these issues are also presented in this report.

Retirement

Hamilton, Myra & Hamilton, Clive 2006, *Baby boomers and retirement dreams, fears and anxieties: Discussion paper number 89* [Online - summary only], Australian Institute, Canberra. [Accessed 23 October 2006]

Having created the cult of youth, it is not surprising that baby boomers now approach old age with a mixture of fear, denial and bravado. The looming 'redundancy' of the boomers is having far-reaching implications for social trends, commercial strategy and government retirement policies. They are active agents in the changing meaning of retirement, just as they have been at the forefront of social transformation for the last 50 years. At the same time, the rise of neo-liberalism in the 1980s saw a shift in the underlying philosophy of social policy and welfare provision towards greater emphasis on self-provision, a pattern reflected in changes in Australia's retirement incomes system.

The age pension is a form of intergenerational income transfer. Generations currently in work pay taxes to support those who have retired but who, in their turn, provided support through taxation to the generation ahead of them. The shift towards self provision through superannuation involves each generation saving for its own retirement, and this has the potential to disrupt the intergenerational contract. This paper explores these changes. [Taken from summary]

Industry

Lowry, Diannah; Molloy, Simon & Tan, Yan 2006, *Staffing the supercycle: Labour force outlook in the minerals sector, 2005 to 2015* [Online], National Skills Shortages Strategy Minerals Working Group. [Accessed 23 October 2006]

According to this report Australia's minerals industry will need to find an extra 70,000 workers over the next decade to meet its demand for labour. Buoyed by sustained global economic growth, employment in the minerals sector is projected to increase by 76% over the next decade, equating to more than 70,000 new positions, with significant gaps between supply and demand. Employment growth identified in this report predominates in Western Australia and Queensland with 42,000 and 15,000 positions projected respectively. Significant employment growth is also anticipated in the NSW and South Australian resources sectors. The demand for workers, in terms of absolute numbers, is expected to be most acute in trades and semiskilled positions, with the copper, nickel and bauxite/alumina industries experiencing the strongest growth. However, shortages in certain professional occupations and the challenge to attract enough people into these occupations will remain critical. [APOL abstract]

National Institute of Economic and Industry Research 2006, *State of Australian manufacturing: Summary report* [Online], NIEIR, Clifton Hill, Victoria. [Accessed 23 October 2006]

This report represents the second bi-annual report prepared by NIEIR for the AMWU on the State of the Australian Manufacturing Industry. The objective of the reports is to:

- review the recent performance of manufacturing in Australia;
- quantify the drivers of change in manufacturing;
- develop manufacturing specific policies to improve manufacturing performance;
- assess what changes in general macroeconomic policies would improve macroeconomic performance; and
- assess the regional impact of manufacturing activity.

Standing Committee on Employment, Workplace Relations and Education 2006, *Perspectives on the future of the harvest labour force* [Online], Department of the Senate, Canberra. [Accessed 23 October 2006]

This report discusses the results of an inquiry which examined the viability of a contract labour scheme between Australia and countries in the Pacific region, for the purposes of providing labour for selected rural industries. The inquiry examined the following:

- labour shortages in rural and regional Australia;
- the availability and mobility of domestic contract labour, and the likely effects of such a scheme on the current seasonal workforce;
- social and economic effects of the scheme on local communities;
- likely technical, legal and administrative considerations for such a scheme; and
- the effects of the scheme on the economies of Pacific nations.

The committee concluded that while labour supply is sometimes precarious at the moment, depending on location, the backpacker, 'grey nomad' and other local and itinerant casual labour resources are currently sufficient. It argues that measures to increase the labour force - including allowing seasonal contract labour from the Pacific islands - are not needed at this time. Nonetheless, the committee believes that the prospect for some mobility of harvest labour from Pacific states may become more likely in future.

New Journal Issues

DEWR Updates

Inquiry into Workforce Challenges in the Transport Industry [Online]
[Accessed 23 October 2006]

The Senate Committee for Employment, Workplace Relations and Education are to inquire into and report on workforce challenges in the Australian transport sector, with particular reference to the following:

- current and future employment trends in the industry;
- industry needs and the skills profile of the current workforce;
- current and future skill and labour supply issues;
- strategies for enhanced recruitment, training and retention; and,
- strategies to meet employer demand in regional and remote areas.

The committee expects to report to the Senate on June 2007.

Australian Bulletin of Labour, vol. 32, no. 2, 2006

- Traditional labour markets: a social investment and risk mitigation strategy for social policy
- Transitional labour markets: experiences from Europe and Germany
- Labour market flexibility and social protection in European welfare states – contrasts and similarities
- Increasing employment participation in Australia and how to finance it
- Beyond voodoo economics and backlash social policy: where next for working life research and policy

Australian Bulletin of Labour, vol. 32, no. 3, 2006

- Labour market transitions and risks of exclusion
- Contemporary disability employment policy in Australia: How can it best support transitions from welfare to work?
- Care giving and employment: policy recognition of care and pathways to labour force return
- Mature workers, training and using TLM frameworks
- Alternative sources of welfare
- Creating decent jobs: the role of regulation in facilitating transitions between employment and unemployment in the labour market

Labour & Industry, vol. 16, no. 3, April-May 2006

- Gendered dichotomies and segregation patterns in computing jobs in Australia
- Migrant women and the Australian Information, Communications and Technology Sector a special case?
- Returning to IT: Employment and development after a career break in the United Kingdom

DEWR has released the September 2006 '**Vacancy Report**'.

The Vacancy Report consists of three main elements:

1. DEWR Skilled Vacancy Index (a count of newspaper advertised skilled vacancies).
2. DEWR ICT Vacancy Index (a count of Information and Communications Technology vacancies on selected Australian web-sites).
3. Vacancies on Australian Job Search (AJS).

DEWR has released the September 2006 edition of the '**SA Labour Market Review**'.

Please note that the six SA Regional Labour Market Reports have also been updated. These reports provide an overview of recent labour market performance and major developments by ABS Statistical Region. The reports may be accessed through '**SA Regional Labour Force Data**'.

New NCVET Publications

Dusting off the shelves: Getting the most value out of vocational education and training equity resources by Giselle Mawer & Elaine Jackson

Outcomes from higher-level vocational education and training qualifications by John Stanwick

Schools, vocational education and training, and partnerships: Capacity-building in rural and regional communities by Helen Stokes, Kathleen Stacey, Murray Lake

ABS Products of Interest

6278.0 Education and Training Experience, Australia (Data Cubes only), 2005

8412.0 Mineral and Petroleum Exploration, Australia, Jun 2006

6248.0.55.001 Wage and Salary Earners, Public Sector, Australia, Jun 2006

3101.0 Australian Demographic Statistics, Mar 2006

1345.4 SA Stats, Sep 2006

4911.0 Aspects of Social Capital, Australia (Reissue PDF only), 2006

8126.0 Information and Communication Technology, Australia (Reissue), 2004-05

1351.0.55.015 Research Paper: Socio-Economic Indexes for Areas: Introduction, Use and Future Directions, Sep 2006

6354.0 Job Vacancies, Australia, Aug 2006

1350.0 Australian Economic Indicators, Oct 2006

5232.0 Australian National Accounts: Financial Accounts, Jun 2006

1200.0.55.001 Disability Variables, 2006

8501.0 Retail Trade, Australia, Aug 2006

8731.0 Building Approvals, Australia, Aug 2006

2033.0.55.001 Census of Population and Housing: Socio-Economic Indexes for Areas (SEIFA), Australia (Reissue - Data Cube only), 2001

2033.4.55.001 Census of Population and Housing: Socio-Economic Indexes for Areas (SEIFA), South Australia (Reissue - Data Cube only), 2001

3401.0 Overseas Arrivals and Departures, Australia, Aug 2006

2970.0.55.016 2001 Census of Population and Housing - Fact Sheet: Postcodes and Census Data, 2001 (Reissue)

2903.0.55.002 Census Media Releases, 2006

6105.0 Australian Labour Market Statistics, Oct 2006

8109.0 Research and Experimental Development, Government and Private Non-Profit Organisations, Australia, 2004-05

5368.0 International Trade in Goods and Services, Australia, Aug 2006

5609.0 Housing Finance, Australia, Aug 2006

8112.0 Research and Experimental Development, All Sector Summary, Australia, 2004-05

1329.0.55.001 Vineyards Estimates, Australia, Preliminary, 2005-06

4620.0 Natural Resource Management on Australian Farms, 2004-05

ABS Products of Interest

- 6291.0.55.003 **Labour Force, Australia, Detailed, Quarterly, Aug 2006**
- 6202.0 **Labour Force, Australia, Sep 2006**
- 6202.0.55.001 **Labour Force, Australia, Spreadsheets, Sep 2006**
- 6291.0.55.001 **Labour Force, Australia, Detailed - Electronic Delivery, Sep 2006**
- 8762.0 **Engineering Construction Activity, Australia, Jun 2006**
- 3127.0.55.001 **Information Paper: Evaluation of Administrative Data Sources for Use in Quarterly Estimation of Interstate Migration, 2006 to 2011**
- 3301.0 **Births, Australia 2005**
- 1364.0.15.001 **Treasury Model of the Australian Economy -- TSP Version, Jun 2006**
- 1364.0.15.003 **Modellers' Database, Jun 2006**
- 2902.0 **Census Update, Oct 2006**
- 3401.0.55.001 **Short-term Visitor Arrival Estimates, Australia, Sep 2006**
- 5439.0 **International Merchandise Imports, Australia, Sep 2006**
- 4913.0 - **Pregnancy and Employment Transitions, Australia , Nov 2005**
- 6427.0 - **Producer Price Indexes, Australia, Sep 2006**

This is a product of the **Workforce Information Service**.

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