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Teaching The Future Workforce: Currency, Connection and Co-design

Australia's workforce is facing a massive change as technology disrupts existing and traditional work tasks. To meet the challenges faced, it will be imperative for educators to adopt innovative methodologies about how to prepare students to adapt to new skill sets demanded by industry. This will require more novel and entrepreneurial practices to be imbedded across curriculum to support the workforce development requirements needed to meet future advances. Connecting with industry and utilising their input in development and delivery of courses is crucial for curriculum to meet industry skill needs and maintain confidence in the education system.

Transferring industry skills and practices into vocational educational practice as it relates to teaching and learning is fundamental to driving curriculum advances. The advent of "learning-integrated work" is rapidly challenging the traditional styles of education to adapt curriculums to expose the student to more work simulated, skill learning to the job role. To drive this change it will be necessary to equip education providers with the appropriate entrepreneurial and innovative skills and mindsets to explore and implement new approaches to teaching and learning. Co-designing learning with industry to enhance student education journeys is ensuring that our teaching methodologies are aligned to the training skill needs.

The paper outlines The Gordon's approach to working towards providing vocational education programs that will meet the training skills demanded by industry. Through industry focus groups, the discussions held around current and emerging trends and the subsequent implications to the workforce highlighted the need to;

- Grow skills' relevance to current industry needs (Industry immersion-teacher internships)
- Mentoring/Reverse mentoring for employers
- Employability skills
- Peer learning and peer review
- Communities of Practice – in teaching and specialised industry sector
- Teachers as facilitators

The proactive engagement of education and industry is highlighting the importance of;

- Creating student learning pathways/journeys that align to gaining a deeper understanding of current industry skills and training needs.
- Gaining industry input on emerging workforce development and training needs.
- Developing teaching capability and excellence that is agile to responding to industry changes and advances.
- Producing students that are work-ready.