Factors enabling engagement with VET for early school leavers

Preliminary findings

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Research question
What approaches would maximise successful entry into and engagement with VET for disadvantaged young people?

Approach and scope
A new framework of VET engagement
Staged consultations with intermediaries and young people (Vic, Tas and Qld)
The current VET landscape

Context

- Global transformation and uncertainty
- NEET levels
- Reliance on VET as a policy solution
- VET system in constant state of flux
- Poor completion rates

Analytical approaches

- Viewing participation and outcomes
- Variables and responses
- Limitations of existing tools
An alternative approach

Key insights from the literature

• The importance of intention in producing behaviour
• Different factors are important at different stages
• A broad range of contributing factors that interact with each other

We need a framework that

• Takes the ecological approach further
• Provides a dynamic model of engagement
• Rests upon a robust model of individual decision making

A conceptual framework that views engagement – or its absence – as relating to a *dynamic process*, and explores factors across multiple levels (micro → macro)
Towards a VET engagement framework

Factors impacting on engagement

- Young person, family and social networks
- Provider
- Programs
- Policy and service systems
- Macrosystems

Young person’s decision making processes

Self-efficacy beliefs and perceptions
Cost-benefit assessments
Stages of engagement

- **Pre-enrolment**
  - Intention to enrol

- **Enrolment**
  - Initial formal engagement

- **Retention**
  - Engagement in learning
  - Outcomes

**Precontemplation**
- Contemplation
- Preparation

**Action**

**Maintenance**
- Further cycles through the stages of change
VET engagement framework

Factors impacting on engagement

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- Macrosystems

Young person’s decision making processes

Stages of engagement

- Pre-enrolment
- Enrolment
- Retention

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## Findings from intermediary teleconferences

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Young person, family and social networks</th>
<th>Provider</th>
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<th>Macrosystems</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Pre-enrolment</strong></td>
<td><strong>Place &amp; housing</strong></td>
<td><strong>Location</strong></td>
<td>Accredited &amp; non-accredited learning</td>
<td><strong>System articulation</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Health &amp; wellbeing</strong></td>
<td><strong>Advice</strong></td>
<td>Competency based learning</td>
<td>Governance, funding and policy</td>
<td>Globalisation &amp; neoliberalism</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Beliefs, attitudes &amp; norms</strong></td>
<td><strong>Architecture</strong></td>
<td>Training packages</td>
<td>Marketisation &amp; deregulation</td>
<td>Technological change</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Peers &amp; role models</strong></td>
<td><strong>Leadership</strong></td>
<td>Foundation level skills</td>
<td>Educational attainments</td>
<td>Assumption of perpetual growth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Skill levels &amp; experience</strong></td>
<td><strong>Scope, timing &amp; modes of delivery</strong></td>
<td>Non-VET components</td>
<td>Policies for young people &amp; education</td>
<td>Unemployment &amp; underemployment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Social capital &amp; resources</strong></td>
<td><strong>Pedagogy</strong></td>
<td><strong>Student supports</strong></td>
<td><strong>Inequity &amp; polarisation</strong></td>
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Next steps: fieldwork
Victoria, Tasmania, Queensland

Intermediaries

VET system
Support services

Young people

Completed VET
Currently in VET
Discontinued VET
Never in VET

Synthesis / Analysis

Interviews
Focus groups
Surveys

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Concluding remarks
References


(a) 2014, Australian vocational education and training statistics: Young people in education and training 2013, Table 9, Publicly funded VET students aged 15 to 19 years by selected demographic characteristics, 2009-13, https://www.ncver.edu.au/wps/portal/vetdataportal/data/


_____________ 2015, The likelihood of completing a government-funded VET program 2009-13, 27 August


