

## VET Connect Forum

'Greening VET - Skills for Sustainability

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## Program

Friday 10 October, 2008

Auditorium 1 (George Street Level 3) - 80 George Street, Brisbane

9.00 am	Registration			
9.30 am	<b>Opening Address &amp; Welcome</b> Rod Arthur, Deputy Director-General Training, Department of Education, Training and the Arts			
9.45 am	<b>Queensland Government Perspective on Sustainability</b> Dr John Cole, Environmental Protection Agency			
10.00 am	<b>Keynote Speaker – Opportunities and Challenges</b> Dr Garry McDonald, National Centre for Sustainability, Swinburne University			
10.45 am	<b>DETA Sustainability Plan Overview</b> Sue Fergusson, Department of Education, Training and the Arts			
11.00 am	Morning Tea			
11.30 am	<b>CASE STUDIES – 15 minutes each</b>			
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dusseldorp Skills Forum – Oona Nielssen</li> <li>• Green Plumbers – Ernie Kretschmer</li> <li>• GreenIT Special Interest Group – Dr Paul Campbell</li> <li>• Housing Industry Association - Greensmart – Mike Roberts</li> </ul>			
1.00 pm	Lunch			
1.45 pm	<b>CASE STUDIES – 15 minutes each</b>			
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Metropolitan South Institute of TAFE – Linda Brown</li> <li>• SkillsTech Australia – Ian Lawrence</li> </ul>			
2.30 pm	<b>GROUP WORK</b>			
	<i>DETA Sustainability Action Plan</i> Room 3	<i>Moving towards a carbon neutral VET Sector</i> Room 4	<i>Embedding Sustainability in Training Design</i> Room 2	<i>Building Capability – what skills do we need?</i> Room 1
3.15 pm	Afternoon Tea			
3.45 pm	Feedback from group work			
4.15 pm	Summation of findings			
4.30 pm	Evaluation and Close			



## Speaker Biographies

**Dr Garry McDonald** is the Manager, National Centre for Sustainability (NCS) at Swinburne University. The NCS is a collaboration of several tertiary institutes providing educational programs in sustainability in partnership with industry, government and community. Garry is currently focussed on an initiative to embed sustainability into every aspect of Swinburne University operations, in particular in education and training curricula and courses.

**Dr John Cole** is the Executive Director of the Environmental Protection Agency's Sustainability Innovation Division. A leading strategic thinker and advisor in sustainable development, John is also an Adjunct Professor in industry, organisational and community sustainability at three leading Queensland universities.

**Dr Paul Campbell** is the Principal Consultant at Cogentia, a consultancy specialising in sustainable information technology strategies, carbon accounting of IT and using IT to engage and build communities. He is a Fellow of the Australian Computer Society, the Executive Officer of the Queensland ICT Industry Workgroup and one of the founders of the Green IT Taskforce, the Green IT Special Interest Group, the Australian Interactive Media Industry Association and Software Queensland.

**Sue Fergusson** leads VET Policy Development in the Training Portfolio of the Department of Education, Training and the Arts. Sue is responsible for development, implementation and maintenance of policy frameworks; data analysis and applied research to support the vocational education and training sector. Sue played a key role in the development of the Queensland Skills Plan.

**Michael Roberts** has over 20 years experience as a Town Planner in Queensland Local Government and industry. Michael joined the Housing Industry Association (HIA) in 2004 as Assistant Director, Planning and Environment Queensland. Michael has carriage of HIA's GreenSmart Program in Queensland, a national program for education in sustainable home construction.

**Ernie Kretschmer** is a trainer at Green Plumbers, a program developed by the Master Plumbers & Mechanical Services Association of Australia (MPMSAA) to improve environmental outcomes and assist understanding of the latest plumbing technology, appliances and installation.

**Linda Brown** is Director, Metropolitan South Institute of TAFE Queensland. The Institute employs 1,000 staff and delivers more than 400 programs to 40,000 clients across 10 campuses, offsite and online. Linda recognises that tailoring product to meet clients' needs is vital in producing training that is practical, efficient relevant and environmentally sustainable.

**Oona Niessen** is Executive Director of Dusseldorp Skills Forum, a not for profit organisation set up with a vision for an Australian workforce that is skilled, educated, innovative and ready to meet the challenges of environmental sustainability.

**Ian Lawrence** is Director of Education at SkillsTech Australia, Queensland's Lead TAFE Institute in trades and technical training.

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**Workshop Summaries****DETA Sustainability Action Plan**

The Department of Education, Training and the Arts, is seeking input into the development of the Action Plan to embed Sustainability within the Queensland VET sector and meet the sustainability related skills of Queensland industry. This will be a facilitated discussion around the proposed action plan, details of which will be presented in the morning session.

Your job will be to provide your views on key issues that should be included in the DETA Sustainability Action Plan and consider what the responsibilities of the VET sector might be in the sustainability agenda.

**Moving towards a carbon neutral VET Sector**

This workshop will focus on discussion around what organisations can do to reduce their carbon footprint. The federal government is introducing the Carbon Pollution Reduction Scheme in emissions trading. This involves the Government setting a limit on how much carbon pollution an industry can produce. The Government then sells permits up to that limit, creating an incentive to adopt cleaner energy options.

Your job will be to consider how this will affect your organisation and propose ways to meet government targets.

**Embedding Sustainability in Training Design**

The Ministerial Committee for Vocational and Technical Education (MCVTE) is currently examining strategies for national consistency in the embedding of sustainability principles in all VET training. It is expected that sustainability principles and practices will be an integral part of all future qualifications. Already there have been three generic units of competency developed for inclusion in training packages. Only a few training packages have contextualised these for their industry and have only included these as electives rather than compulsory units within qualifications.

It is your job to consider the options for embedding sustainability within your vocational training area with regards to delivery strategies, practices and resources.

**Building Capability – what skills do we need?**

This workshop will focus on the skilling requirements of the VET professional to be able to facilitate the progression of the sustainability agenda for business and the community. Capability building of VET professionals will be an important component in equipping their learners for sustainable industry and community practices.

It is your job to consider what skills are required for training delivery to promote a sustainable future and educate our community in sustainability behaviour.

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- **Become informed, educated and skilled**

For further information check out these web sites:

Greening VET Skills for Sustainability: Vet Connect Forum

[http://www.vetpd.qld.gov.au/events/event\\_details.php?event\\_id=29](http://www.vetpd.qld.gov.au/events/event_details.php?event_id=29)

National Centre for Sustainability

<http://www.ncsustainability.com.au/>

Dusseldorp Skills Forum <http://www.dsf.org.au/>

Hatfield-Dodds, S., Turner, G., Schandl, H., and Doss, T., 2008 *Growing the green collar economy: Skills and labour challenges in reducing our greenhouse emissions and national environmental footprint*. Report to the Dusseldorp Skills Forum, June 2008. CSIRO Sustainable Ecosystems, Canberra.

[http://www.dsf.org.au/papers/204/CSIROGreenJobsReport\\_0.pdf](http://www.dsf.org.au/papers/204/CSIROGreenJobsReport_0.pdf)

Executive Summary: [http://www.dsf.org.au/papers/204/GreenCollarRedesign\\_ExecS\\_1.pdf](http://www.dsf.org.au/papers/204/GreenCollarRedesign_ExecS_1.pdf)

Green Collar Revolution requires radical action: CSIRO / by Jennifer Macey

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2008/06/26/2287193.htm>

Sustainability Education (Department of Environment, Water, Heritage & the Arts)

<http://www.environment.gov.au/education/index.html>

Garnaut Climate Change Review

[http://www.garnautreview.org.au/domino/Web\\_Notes/Garnaut/garnautweb.nsf](http://www.garnautreview.org.au/domino/Web_Notes/Garnaut/garnautweb.nsf)

Australasian Campuses Towards Sustainability

<http://acts.asn.au/>

ARIES Education for sustainability webpage

<http://www.aries.mq.edu.au/portal/about/index.htm>

Finding the Common Ground: Is there a place for sustainability education in VET?

<http://www.ncver.edu.au/publications/1718.html>

- **Accept the challenge • make a start**

Towards a green Forum:

Recycled paper

Increased electronic communication

Reusable satchel

Forum Website: [www.vetconnect.net.au](http://www.vetconnect.net.au)

Queensland the Smart State



**Queensland Government**  
Department of Education, Training and the Arts