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A snapshot of a selection of items added to VOCEDplus

**FEBRUARY 2017**

The [full list](#) of new additions to VOCEDplus is available at [www.voced.edu.au](http://www.voced.edu.au)

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*OECD countries have seen a major increase in the educational attainment level of their populations over the last 50 years*

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### **Educational attainment in OECD countries**

**Educational attainment: a snapshot of 50 years of trends in expanding education / Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD).**

Paris, France: OECD, 2017. 4 pages.

In 1965, only 43 per cent of young adults aged 25-34 had attained upper secondary education or higher on average across OECD countries. As a result of the rapid expansion in education over the last five decades, the large majority of adults in OECD countries have now attained at least upper secondary education. This educational expansion started in different periods and countries have followed different trajectories: some have chosen to expand secondary education first and then tertiary education, while others have chosen to expand all levels simultaneously. In other countries educational expansion has slowed or remained stable in recent decades. Tertiary education has also experienced considerable expansion with many countries now witnessing the majority of their young adults reaching this level of qualification.

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*Automation of activities can enable businesses to improve performance by reducing errors and improving quality and speed, and in some cases, achieving outcomes that go beyond human capabilities*

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### **The automation potential of the global economy**

**A future that works: automation, employment, and productivity / James Manyika, Michael Chui, Mehdi Miremadi, Jacques Bughin, Katy George, Paul Willmott and Martin Dewhurst.**

San Francisco, California: McKinsey Global Institute, 2017. 135 pages.

Advances in robotics, artificial intelligence, and machine learning are ushering in a new age of automation, as machines match or outperform human performance in a range of work activities, including ones requiring cognitive capabilities. In this report, part of the McKinsey Global Institute's ongoing research into the future of work, the authors analyse the automation potential of the global economy, the factors that will determine the pace and extent of workplace adoption, and the economic impact associated with its potential. The five factors affecting pace and extent of adoption are technical feasibility, cost of developing and deploying solutions, labour market dynamics, economic benefits, and regulatory and social acceptance.

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*Evidence from other industries, such as (aero)space, composites, and industrial biotechnology, suggests that as and when employers in cell therapy turn towards apprenticeship training, they may find it difficult to find a training provider willing to offer the requisite training because of the 'tyranny of small numbers'*

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*This book addresses a range of internationalization dimensions in both the public and private VET sectors and onshore and offshore VET delivery in developed countries as well as foreign-funded VET programmes in developing countries*

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*This book covers Australia, the United States, the United Kingdom, China, Nepal, Turkey, Chile, South Africa, and the Arab Gulf States*

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## How to create skills for an emerging industry in the UK

### How to create skills for an emerging industry: the case of technician skills and training in cell therapy / Paul Lewis.

London, England: Gatsby Charitable Foundation, 2017. 40 pages.

This report focuses on one of the principal approaches used in regenerative medicine, namely cell therapy. In cell therapy, living cells - as distinct from drug-based therapies - are administered to the patient in order to help deal with illnesses. The goal of the research described in this report is to inform efforts to ensure that employers in cell therapy in the UK are able to acquire the skilled technicians they will need as they move towards full-scale manufacturing, by examining not only how technicians are currently used and acquired but also how they are likely to be used in the future. The research finds that employers in the field of cell therapy are beginning to turn towards full-scale manufacturing. The evidence suggests that, as they do so, they will create an increasing number of specialist manufacturing roles. Given that there does not exist a pool of trained technicians from which employers in the industry can draw, they are likely to have to begin to train apprentices.

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## Internationalization in vocational education and training

### Internationalization in vocational education and training: transnational perspectives / edited by Ly Thi Tran and Kate Dempsey.

Dordrecht, Netherlands: Springer International Publishing, 2017. xxiii, 255 pages.

This book addresses a range of aspects of the internationalization of vocational education and training (VET) in different countries. It considers the impact of internationalization and student mobility on VET at the sectoral, institutional and individual levels as the sector emerges as a key tool for social and structural change in developing nations and as a flexible and entrepreneurial means of growth in developed nations. The book explores not only the effects of the neo-liberal market principle underpinning VET practices and reforms, but considers internationalization as a force for change in VET.

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## International innovations in widening participation

### Bridges, pathways and transitions: international innovations in widening participation / edited by Mahsood Shah and Gail Whiteford.

Cambridge, Massachusetts: Chandos Publishing, 2017. xxiv, 265 pages.

This book shows that widening participation initiatives and policies have had a profound impact on improving access to higher education to historically marginalised groups of students from diverse socioeconomic and cultural backgrounds. It also reveals that more work and policy interventions are needed to share opportunities more equally between social groups. The book covers: collaborations with schools, families, and communities; tools and methods to aid in the creation of pathways and bridging initiatives into higher education; and case studies that show how students are supported during the transition into high education systems.

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*The Blueprint can only bring results if it is driven and owned by sector stakeholders*

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## **Blueprint for sectoral cooperation on skills in Europe**

### **Blueprint for sectoral cooperation on skills: responding to skills mismatches at sectoral level / European Commission.**

Luxembourg: Publications Office of the European Union, 2017. 19 pages.

The Blueprint for Sectoral Cooperation on Skills is a new framework for strategic cooperation to address short and medium-term skills needs in a given economic sector. The publication outlines how stakeholders (businesses, trade unions, public authorities, research, education and training institutions, etc.) can apply the framework to address sectoral challenges, illustrating the steps towards delivering sector-specific skills solutions through sectoral partnerships. The Blueprint currently focuses on six pilot sectors including: automotive; defence; maritime technology; space (geo-information); textile, clothing, leather and footwear (TCLF); and tourism. It will be extended to additional sectors in the future.

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*The VET Student Loans scheme commenced on 1 January 2017*

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## **The VET Student Loans scheme in Australia**

### **The VET Student Loans scheme: is it a good model for a student loan scheme? / Mark Warburton.**

Carlton, Victoria: LH Martin Institute, 2017. 29 pages.

The VET Student Loans scheme was rushed through the Australian Parliament on a wave of public outrage about the rorting of VET FEE-HELP. The old scheme was voted out with little understanding of what the new one might bring in. The scheme's fundamental purpose is to provide a benefit to students. It seeks to make access to VET affordable by helping students to pay their tuition fees. The aspects of policy and implementation that this paper examines are primarily those related to the payment of tuition fees. It considers whether these arrangements are simple, fair and efficient for students and providers.

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*The journey from high school to higher education is much more complicated than policymakers tend to imagine*

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## **Building skills for postsecondary success in the US**

### **Beyond academic readiness: building a broader range of skills for success in college / Jenny Nagaoka and Matthew A. Holsapple.**

Boston, Massachusetts: Jobs for the Future, 2017. vi, 16 pages.

This paper looks beyond narrow academic views of college readiness and explores the 'noncognitive' dimension of preparing students for postsecondary success. It focuses on the critical need for students in Grades 9-12 to become independent, self-directed learners and to build strong identities as future college students. The paper argues that high schools, with input and support from higher education, should provide students with early college-like experiences that contribute to the development of these factors.

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