

South Australia's approach to skills and workforce development

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Paper presented to the Monash University-ACER
Centre for the Economics of Education and Training Annual Conference
Melbourne, 31 October 2008

Abstract

The South Australian Government is currently implementing the most far reaching reforms to the State's skills and workforce development system in decades. In March 2008 *A Skills Strategy for South Australia's future* was released and was followed soon after by a high level review of skills and workforce development, commissioned by the Economic Development Board (the Keating Report). This paper draws on these two key reports to outline the approach being implemented in South Australia – the aim of which is to develop a *demand driven, customer focussed and flexible system*. The key elements of the reform agenda are:

- understanding skilling needs through improved workforce planning and strengthened engagement with industry
- developing a dynamic training environment through increased contestability for public funding and greater devolution
- increasing workforce participation and participation in education and training through embedding case management to support learners from disadvantaged groups and by reducing opportunity costs
- modernising the publicly funded VET sector through better use of infrastructure and new approaches to teaching and learning
- ensuring linkages between Commonwealth and State skills and workforce development investments.

The paper will also discuss the role of the new strengthened Training and Skills Commission in driving these reforms.