

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on your Draft Research Report on the VET Workforce. My particular interest and expertise is in Aboriginal adult and vocational education. I strongly support your draft recommendation 8.5, regarding the need to increase the size of the Indigenous VET workforce. However, I think that this will only occur when there are more Indigenous people in management and leadership positions in the VET sector, positions which require higher level qualifications, specifically higher education undergraduate and postgraduate degrees. This is therefore a matter which needs to be addressed through the Indigenous Higher Education Advisory Council, and the Australian Council of Deans of Education. Such a strategy needs to be coordinated with the Indigenous Education Action Plan of MCEEDYA, and the Indigenous Economic Development Strategy, under the Closing the Gap overall policy framework. Can I suggest a high-level working party of senior Indigenous educators with experience in the VET system be appointed to develop a strategy to action this recommendation.

Regards

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