THOUGHT LEADERS
Informed pathway choices...

This forum jointly hosted by the VET Development Centre and TAFE Directors Australia (TDA) will consider recent research activity and data relating to pathways – what makes for successful transition from secondary to tertiary and from VET to higher education. In an environment where a well informed student choice is critical to them accessing government subsidised post secondary education both of these reports identify critical constraints and enablers.

Rachael Smith (from NSW Department of Education and Communities) will present on a recent report “Turning aspirations into reality: how teachers can support student’s transition to university and VET” which draws on a survey about NSW senior secondary students’ expectations and destinations. Some of the key findings from this research indicate that teachers have more influence than careers advisors on student choices and that students’ post secondary aspirations and destinations are affected by their gender, socio-economic status and where they live.

Tricia McLaughlin (from RMIT) will present the findings of the Department of Industry, Innovation, Science, Research and Tertiary Education (DIISRTE) funded Office for Learning and Teaching (OLT) study that she led in partnership with University Western Sydney, Curtin University, Holmesglen Institute, University Technology Sydney and Deakin University. The study “Clearing the Pathways” was concerned with the very poor transition rate nationally of VET students into higher education, especially across key industry areas. The two year study examined evidence from a national survey and interviews with students to examine enablers of lifelong learning and transition between the AQF levels. The findings have significant implications for all tertiary educators and industry participants across all sectors.

A facilitated Q&A session will follow the presentations and a networking opportunity accompanied by refreshments concludes the evening.