



Connecting VET and Regional Economic Development in Western Sydney: An ACE case study

ITEC19 Surfers Paradise: Dr Don Perlgut, Community Colleges Australia, 22 August 2019



Project Aims

How can Western Sydney's vocational education and training (VET) infrastructure meet the growing needs of Western Sydney's population?

What role can adult & community education (ACE) providers play in assisting Western Sydney to become an economically stronger and more connected region?





Presentation Outline

Australian adult and community education (ACE) “recap”

Project activities

Western Sydney economic development challenges

Findings & case studies

Recommendations & conclusions





Adult & Community Education Recap

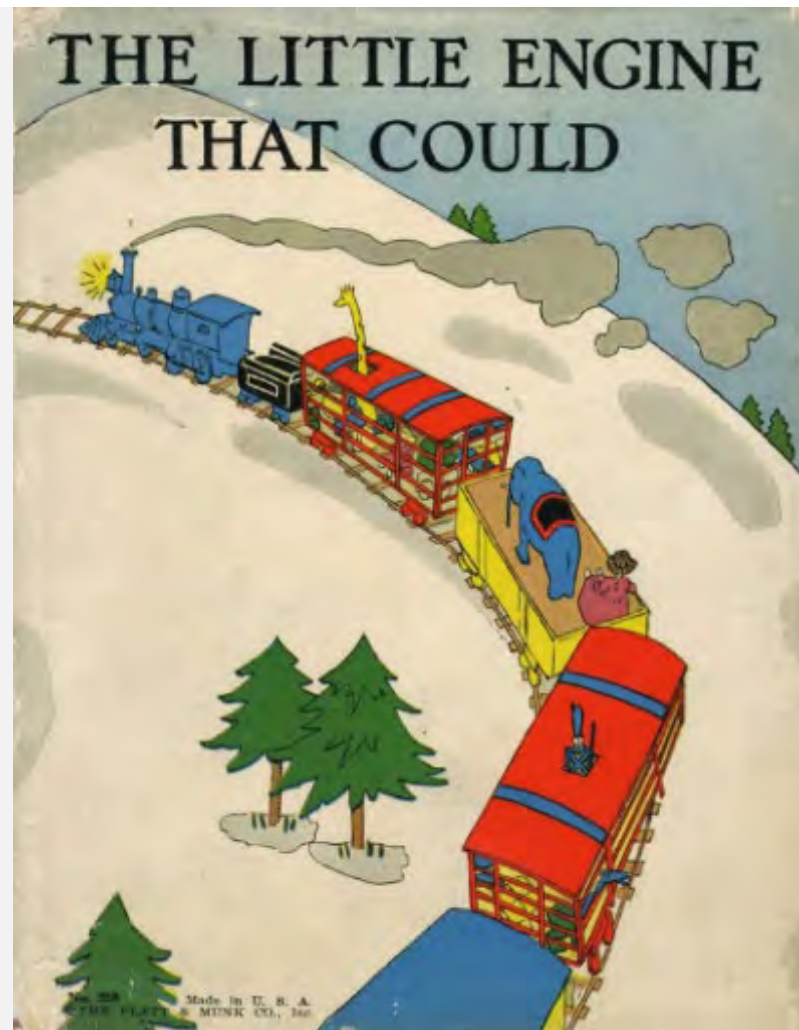
History: NFP community-based learning going back >100 years

Branding: Different from, but often confused with TAFE and private providers

Business: Public perception of adult education

Focus: Increasingly on vulnerable & disadvantaged, foundation skills

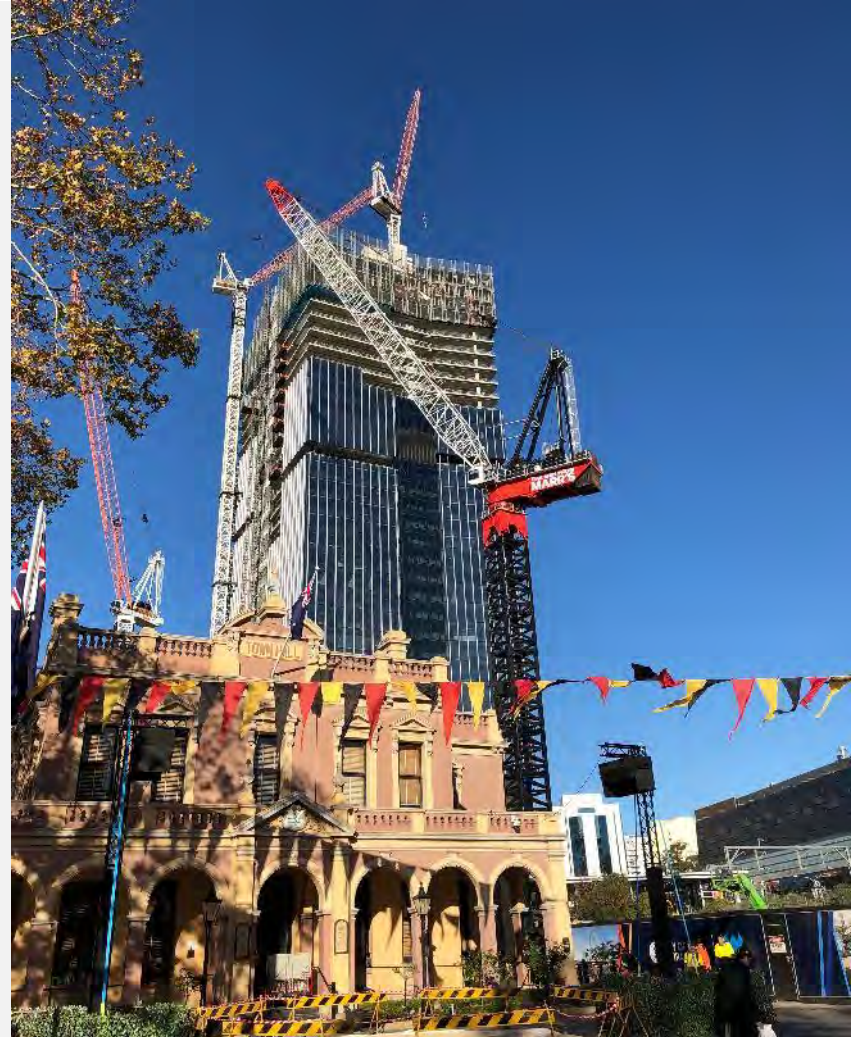
Numbers: 400+ providers serving 380,000 VET students, 9% of Australia's 4.2 million learners (NCVER, 2018)





Project Activities

- Review challenges and opportunities facing Western Sydney
- Survey and map ACE skills and economic development activities
- Regional economic development forum
- Case study models
- Recommendations

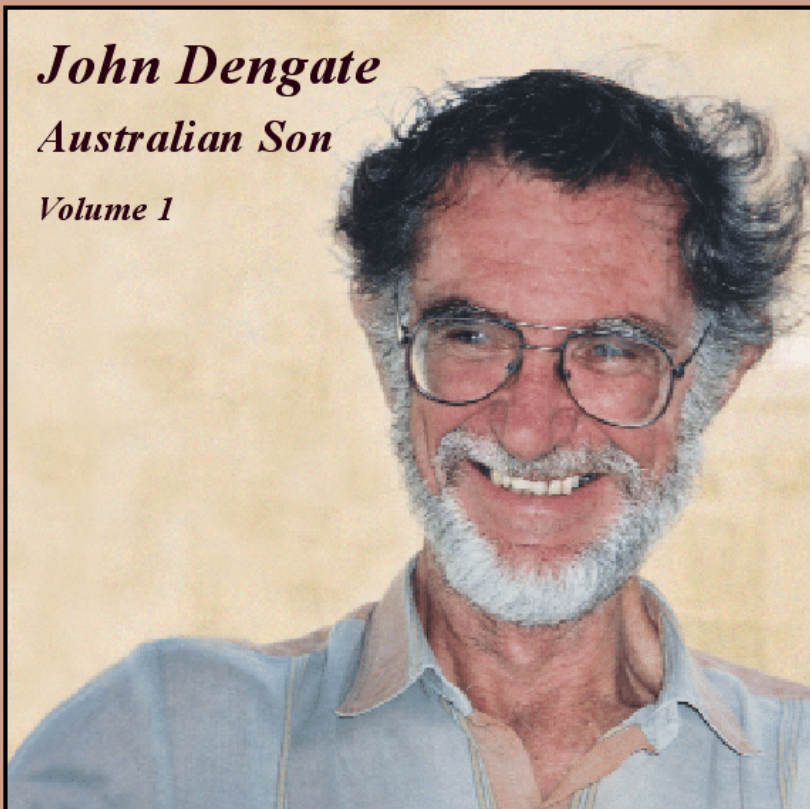




Western Sydney Transport Disadvantage

John Dengate Australian Son

Volume 1



Recorded in concert among friends

Train Trip to Guildford, song by John Dengate (1975)

Waiting, waiting for the twenty past four to arrive;
Mate, the twenty past four doesn't run any more,
The next train's the quarter past five.

Time means money, they say,
And I must get to Guildford today
Did he say platform nine for the Liverpool line?
Do I have to change trains on the way?

Indicator, please won't you indicate soon
With your little round light that this platform is right;
I've been waiting at Central since noon.

This old fellow here next to me
Caught the bus up from Circular Quay;
He scratches his arse with his pensioner's pass
But he's on the wrong line for Narwee.

But it's Wentworthville, Pendle Hill;
We're rattling towards Emu Plains.
I should have got out when I heard someone shout
At Granville, "You have to change trains."

<http://www.shoestringrecords.tv/Australianrootsseries/JohnDengate/dengateindex.html>; in memory of John Dengate, 1938-2013.

<https://railwaysongs.blogspot.com/2008/11/train-trip-to-guildford.html>



Western Sydney Features

Rich rural and agricultural lands,
historical sites, recreational, Blue
Mountains World Heritage
bushland





Why Western Sydney

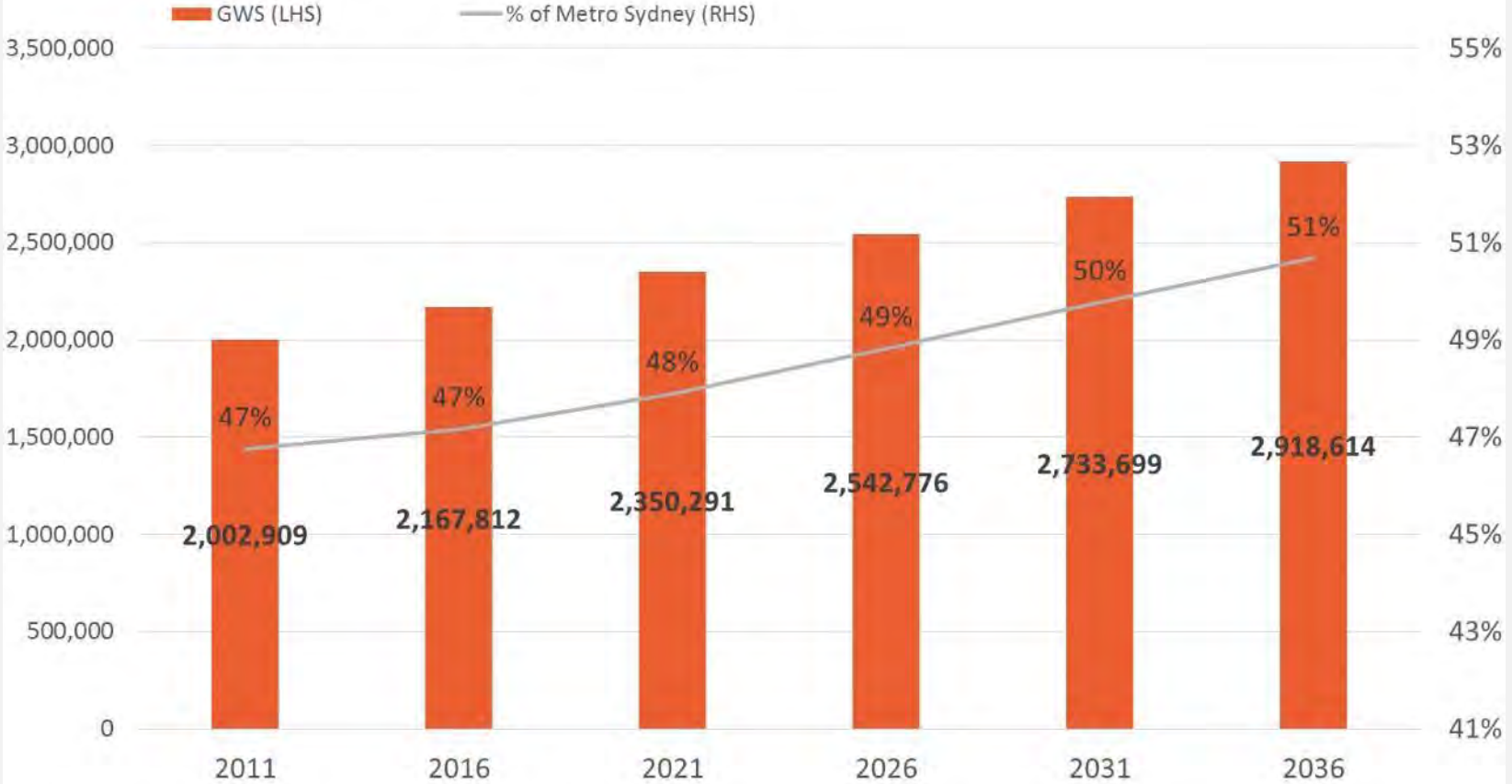
Home to 1 in 10 Australians;
Australia's third largest economy,
after Sydney and Melbourne CBDs;
Parramatta CBD unique: Sydney is
the only city with a second CBD.





Western Sydney Population Growth

Population forecasts, GWS



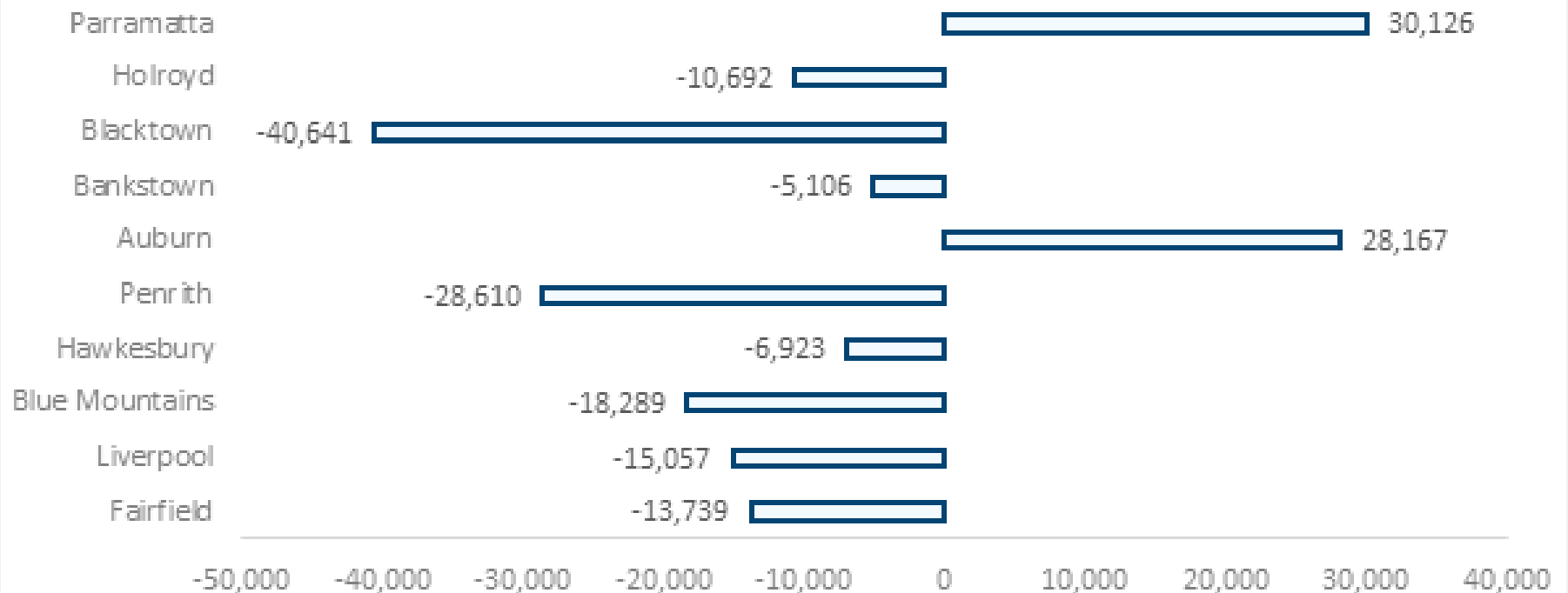
Source: SAFi. Compiled and presented by .id the population experts

Source: <https://blog.id.com.au/2018/population/population-trends/demography-and-destiny-in-western-sydney/>



Western Sydney Jobs Deficit

DIFFERENCE BETWEEN LOCAL JOBS AND EMPLOYED RESIDENTS BY LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA - 2015



Source: Western Sydney Regional Organisation of Councils (WSROC)
<https://wsroc.com.au/issues-campaigns/economy-and-employment>



Badgerys Creek Airport





Aerotropolis





Educational Infrastructure



TAFE NSW has 15 campuses in Western & South Western Sydney, with a new campus planned in Penrith-Leppington-Bringelly area. (See: <https://www.tafensw.edu.au/locations/western-Sydney>; <https://www.tafensw.edu.au/locations/south-western-Sydney>; and <https://nsw.liberal.org.au/Our-Plans/Policies/A-NEW-TAFE-FOR-WESTERN-SYDNEY>.)



**WESTERN SYDNEY
UNIVERSITY**



LEVERAGING LIVERPOOL'S HEALTH AND EDUCATION PRECINCT

Walk
Universities, hospitals and research facilities – all close to transport – and within seven minutes' walk

Eat
Liverpool is home to 150 restaurants, and much of their food is at hand in our streets

Shop
Westfield, Macquarie Mall and Liverpool Plaza combine to create a city-centre shopping experience

Study
Three high-quality universities and TAFE open doors to the world of higher learning

Work
Liverpool's proud manufacturing history is shaking hands with an emerging health and education precinct

Travel
Already well-served by bus and rail, Western Sydney Airport is being built in our backyard





Community Colleges Australia

WESTERN SYDNEY REGIONAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FORUM

Zoe De Saram
NSW Government View



Black & White
makes best music



also same
song sheet

GLOBAL TRENDS

1. Growth
2. Prosperity
3. Inclusion

Working together...



Shared
responsibility...

↔ across levels of
government



3 Cities
Report



Western
Sydney
City Deal



Where are
the opportunities
to support economic
development... role
of education

ACE sector
help re-skilling



Terese O'Dwyer RDA

cover 33 LGAs in Sydney



Jobs - diverse range
close to home



connect
Expertise
to

1. 15-24 yo in Higher Education
↑ universities attendance ↓ further educ' vocational



2. Industries

• healthcare & social assist

construction

postal

self-employment
model

• transport & warehousing

• manufacturing ↓

200,000 people
travel



? STUDY

— > 30km —> WORK

INVEST



Infrastructure



Airport



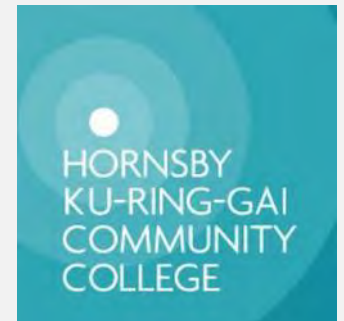
Open up to
the world

Recorded by
Michelle Baker



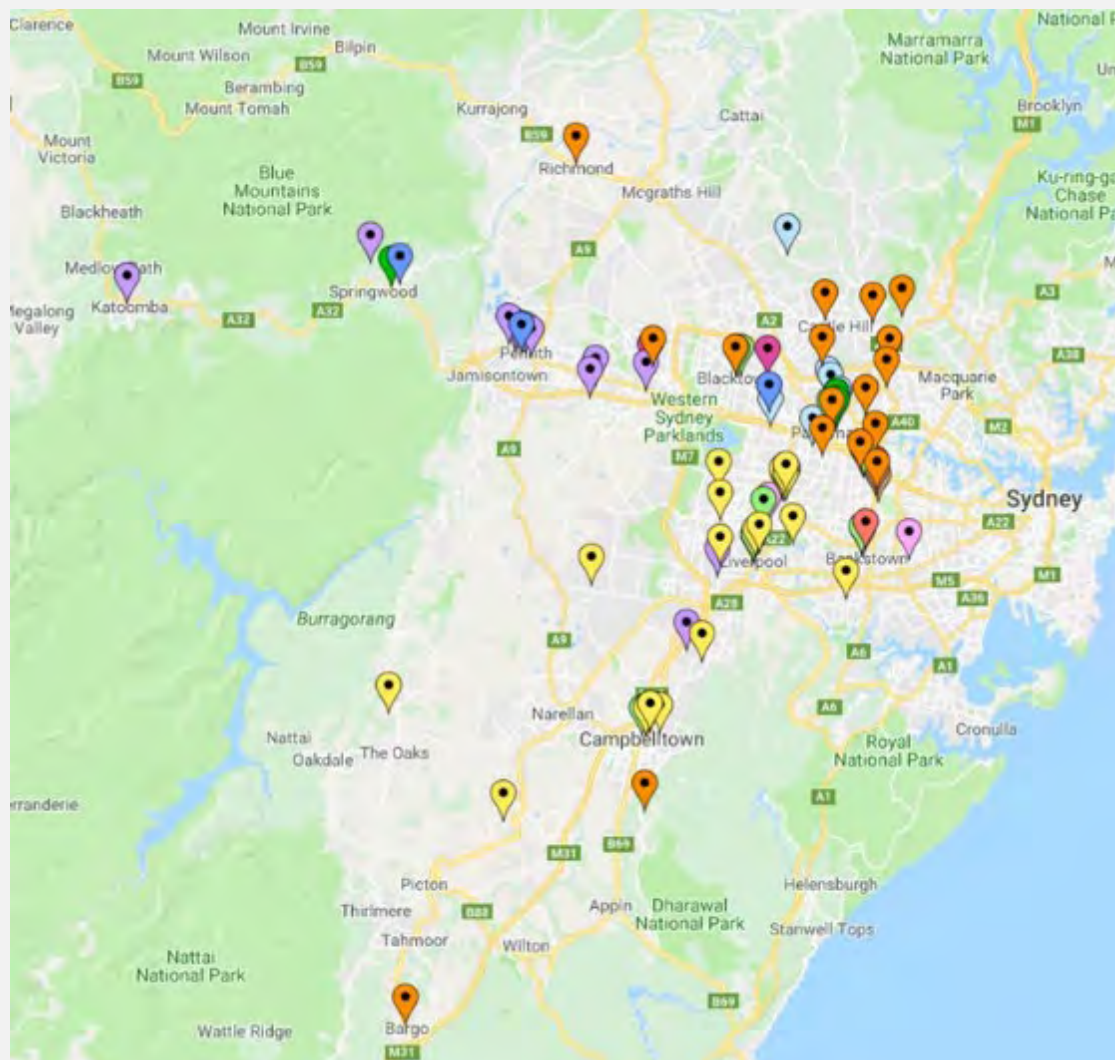


Western Sydney ACE Providers





Western Sydney ACE Provider Locations





Western Sydney ACE Provider Specialties

- Business and work skills
- Early childhood
- Aged care
- Disability
- Community services
- Foundation Skills & adult literacy/numeracy
- English as a second language
- Information technology
- Management and leadership





Sectors specialise in different age cohorts

Western Sydney Total VET Subject Enrolments 2017 by Student Age

(source: NCVER, 2018)

| Age | Community (%) | TAFE (%) | Private (%) |
|-------|---------------|----------|-------------|
| < 24 | 16.3 | 49.2 | 24.0 |
| 25-34 | 16.3 | 20.8 | 31.9 |
| 35-44 | 20.9 | 14.6 | 21.5 |
| 45+ | 46.5 | 15.4 | 22.6 |
| | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 |





Indigenous, Disability & NESB Students

Western Sydney Total VET Subject Enrolments 2017 by Student Status

(source: NCVER, 2018)

| Provider Type | Disability Status % | Indigenous Status % | Non-English Speaking Background (NESB) % |
|---------------|---------------------|---------------------|--|
| Community | 15.6 | 1.2 | 55.8 |
| TAFE | 9.8 | 5.6 | 35.8 |
| Private | 3.1 | 1.5 | 49.8 |



Learners by SEIFA Quintile

Western Sydney VET Subject Enrolments 2017 by Student SEIFA Quintile

(Total does not add to 100% due to rounding) (source: NCVER, 2018)

| SEIFA Quintile | Community (%) | TAFE (%) | Private (%) |
|--|---------------|----------|-------------|
| Bottom quintile: most disadvantaged 0-20% | 42.5 | 39.9 | 39.9 |
| Second from bottom quintile: 20-40% | 18.9 | 23.6 | 20.9 |
| Third (middle) quintile: 40-60% advantage | 10.5 | 11.5 | 12.5 |
| Fourth quintile: 60-80% advantage | 15.6 | 16.2 | 13.9 |
| Top quintile: most advantaged 80-100% | 12.5 | 8.8 | 12.7 |
| Total | 100.0 | 100.0 | (*) 99.9 |



Social Enterprise



<https://www.jobquest.org.au/social-enterprise-services>

<https://jss.org.au/what-we-do/settlement-and-community-building/western-sydney/>

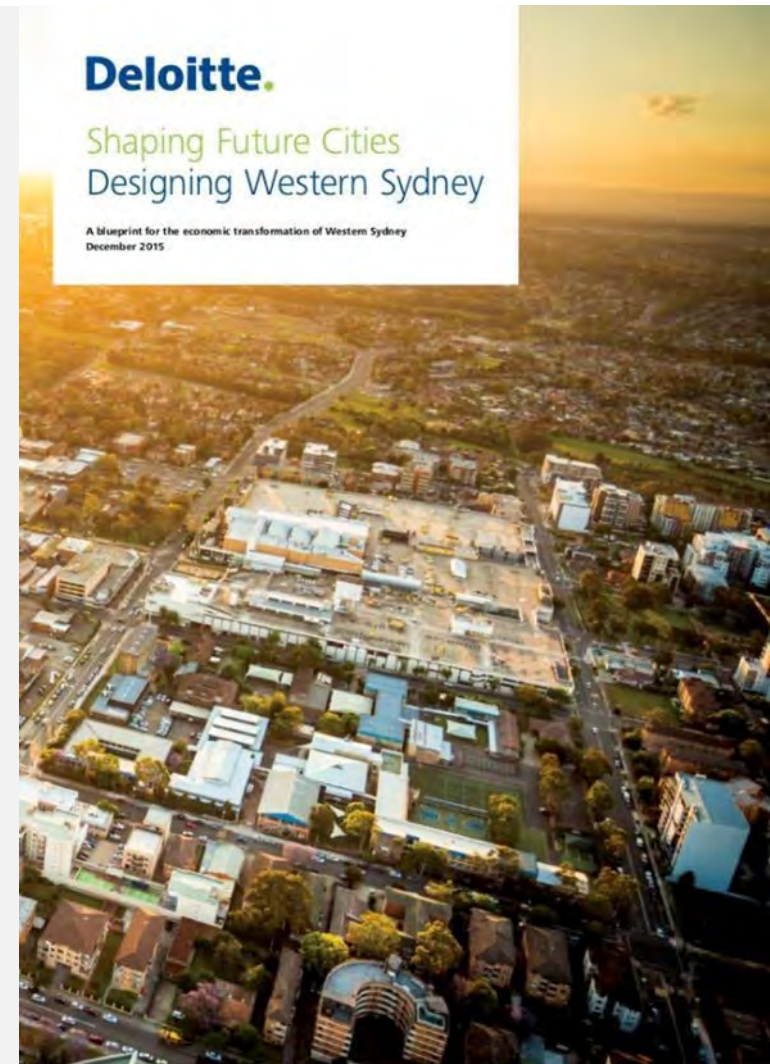


Shaping Western Sydney: The Role of VET

“With one million more people expected to live west of Homebush by 2031, Western Sydney’s population *will grow by almost 50% in just over 15 years.*”

Seven key drivers for creating jobs: including *lifting workforce participation rates to “support disadvantaged groups* through training and work transitions, creating a more balanced and equitable city”.

VET providers have crucial role in ensuring that the region has necessary education and training infrastructure. ACE providers can support foundation skills. Pathways are needed.





Foundation Skills & Outreach

- Decline of Western Sydney TAFE Outreach
- Potential learners from disadvantaged groups lack confidence, networks & literacy skills
- Outreach learners are unique, often with multiple factors influencing learning engagement



Linda Simon, "VET needs support to rebuild its role in getting disadvantaged groups into education and work", *The Conversation*, 8 October 2018, <https://theconversation.com/vet-needs-support-to-rebuild-its-role-in-getting-disadvantaged-groups-into-education-and-work-101390>; Youth Action with Uniting and Mission Australia, Vocational Education and Training in NSW: Report into access and outcomes for young people experiencing disadvantage, February 2018, available at https://d3n8a8pro7vnm.cloudfront.net/youthaction/pages/1462/attachments/original/1519002239/VET_Report_2018.pdf?1519002239; *Engaging hard-to-reach families and children*, "Section 4: Who is hard-to-reach?", by Natasha Cortis, Ilan Katz and Roger Patulny, Australian Government Department of Social Services, 1 June 2009, <https://www.dss.gov.au/our-responsibilities/families-and-children/publications-articles/number-26-engaging-hard-to-reach-families-and-children?HTML#sec4>.



Conclusions

- Western Sydney's distances to work, rapid population growth & lower employment rates make it a high national priority for post-secondary education, employment and skills.
- Western Sydney needs a comprehensively planned VET, post-secondary education and skills strategy that builds on the strength of the different VET sectors, and anticipates future growth, which will see at least 700,000 new residents in the next 15 years.
- If we get training and skills right in Western Sydney, it will have benefits not only for the rest of Sydney and NSW, but the rest of Australia.
- Aside from TAFE's campus network, there is little coherence in Western Sydney VET service delivery.
- ACE providers are ideally positioned to deliver a cohesive connections, ongoing learning and skilling for the region through a place-based approach and network of more than 200 locations.
- ACE providers have limited resources, especially given their willingness to expand and introduce new services to key equity groups.
- Investment in governance structures and shared systems for regional networks of ACE and other non-TAFE providers are essential to build sector capacity in Western Sydney.
- Collaborations with all layers of government, industry and community stakeholders are crucial for broader success.



EXPANDING POSSIBILITIES
CCA ANNUAL CONFERENCE
Brisbane 2019

<https://cca.edu.au/what-we-do/2019-cca-annual-conference/>



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