



SYDNEY
COMMUNITY
COLLEGE

OF COURSE YOU CAN



I'D LIKE TO BEGIN BY ACKNOWLEDGING THE
TRADITIONAL CUSTODIANS OF THE LAND ON WHICH WE
MEET TODAY. I WOULD ALSO LIKE TO PAY MY RESPECTS
TO ELDERS PAST AND PRESENT AND EMERGING.

Of course you can



I'D LIKE TO THANK DON AND THE CONFERENCE ORGANISERS FOR THIS OPPORTUNITY TO REFLECT ON THE PAST, COMMENT ON THE PRESENT AND POINT TO THAT PLACE OVER THE HORIZON.

Of course you can



DON POSED 3 QUESTIONS AND I'LL TRY TO
ANSWER THEM IN ORDER.

Of course you can



Q1.

WHAT PARTICULAR ACHIEVEMENTS OF YOUR COLLEGE DURING THE COURSE OF YOUR TIME AS ITS LEADER ARE YOU MOST PROUD OF, AND WHY?

Of course you can



SINCE 2008 WE AT SCC HAVE ENROLLED OVER
120,000 STUDENTS;

Of course you can




WE HAVE CONDUCTED OVER 15,000 WORKSHOPS OR
CLASSES;

Of course you can




IT'S IMPORTANT TO NOTE THAT LESS THAN 15%
OF THAT EFFORT HAS BEEN IN GOVERNMENT
FUNDED VET;

Of course you can



IMPORTANTLY, WE'VE STAYED OPEN DURING SOME
TUMULTUOUS CHANGES INCLUDING THE LOSS OF
GOVERNMENT FUNDING, THE GFC AND CONTINUING
FINANCIAL STRESS.

Of course you can



WE DID THAT BY MOVING EARLY TO THE DIGITAL
WORLD SUCH AS WEBSITE DESIGN, EMAIL
CAMPAIGNS, SOCIAL MEDIA MARKETING AND SEO
EXPERTISE

Of course you can



BY BECOMING AND REMAINING AGILE,

Of course you can



BY BECOMING AND REMAINING DEMAND
DRIVEN.

Of course you can



BY BECOMING AND REMAINING STUDENT
FOCUSSED.

Of course you can



I'M PROUD OF THAT WORK.


Of course you can



Q2.


WHAT DO YOU SEE AS THE BIGGEST CHALLENGES
FOR AUSTRALIAN POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION
RIGHT NOW?

Of course you can



TO ME, THERE IS A RISK THAT SINCE THE EARLY 2000'S WE HAVE BEGUN TO VIEW EDUCATION AS BEING MORE ABOUT MEASUREMENT AND STANDARDS AND LESS ABOUT LEARNING.

Of course you can




MY VIEW IS THAT LIFE-LONG LEARNING AS A PRINCIPLE IS BEING LOST IN AUSTRALIA AND THE VET AGENDA IS TOO STRONGLY DOMINATING POLICY THINKING AND FUNDING INITIATIVES.

Of course you can



WHILE I BELIEVE VET TO BE IMPORTANT, WITHIN
THE EDUCATION LANDSCAPE, IT MAKES UP ONLY
PART OF THE WHOLE PICTURE.

Of course you can



IT IS IMPORTANT TO RECOGNISE THAT THE DISCOURSE WE HAVE ABOUT EDUCATION, ABOUT LEARNING AND ITS VALUE, DOES NOT DEVALUE ANY THAT IS NOT QUALIFICATION FOCUSSED.

Of course you can



I BELIEVE THAT WE MUST REMEMBER THAT
EDUCATION IS A SOCIAL GOOD AND WE ARE AT
SOME RISK OF LOOSING THAT PERSPECTIVE.

Of course you can



Q3.

LOOKING TO THE FUTURE, WHAT DO YOU THINK THE FUTURE FOR AUSTRALIA'S ADULT AND COMMUNITY EDUCATION SECTOR HOLDS? WHAT CAN WE DO TO ENSURE THAT WE STRENGTHEN OURSELVES?

Of course you can




BY 'ACE SECTOR' DO WE MEAN NFP EDUCATION
GENERALLY OR IS ACE SOMEHOW UNIQUE?

Of course you can



IF WE ARE UNIQUE, THEN HOW SO?

Of course you can




IF WE ARE UNIQUE, I THEREFORE SEE THE PARAMOUNT CHALLENGE FOR US IS TO URGENTLY DEFINE OURSELVES, OUR PURPOSE, OUR VISION AND REPRESENT THAT VISION EFFECTIVELY TO POLICY MAKERS.

Of course you can



I KNOW CCA IS DOING THAT AND SHOULD BE
COMMENDED FOR THAT.

Of course you can



IT IS A LONG ROAD AHEAD AND I BELIEVE WE SHOULD START WITH THE QUESTION ABOUT NOT WHAT IS, BUT THE STATEMENT OF WHAT SHOULD BE.

Of course you can



THANK YOU.

Of course you can