

“The Ideas Bag”: Distilling the essence of the ideas of the conference



Richard Sweet

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Richard Sweet is an international education and training policy consultant and a Professorial Fellow in the Centre for Post-compulsory Education and Lifelong Learning at the University of Melbourne. He has chaired the Board of the International Centre for Career Development and Public Policy since it was founded in 2004. In recent years he has carried out work for the OECD, the United Nations, the European Training Foundation, and government agencies in Finland, Norway, Korea, Malta and Italy. In the last decade he has led international teams to review national policies and to advise on education and training reform in Austria, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Hungary, Ireland, Korea, Luxembourg, Montenegro, Norway, Spain, Sweden, Finland, the United Kingdom and the United States. During 2007 he acted as the international expert for a review of apprenticeship and work-based learning in ten Mediterranean and Middle Eastern countries.

Between 1998 and 2005 he was a Principal Analyst in the Directorate for Education at the OECD in Paris where he was responsible for major comparative reviews on the transition from school to work, ICT and education policy, career guidance, and tertiary education. He also edited the OECD flagship publication Education Policy Analysis. Prior to joining the OECD Richard was Research Co-ordinator for the Dusseldorf Skills Forum, Adjunct Professor of Vocational Education at the University of Technology, Sydney, and a member of the ACER Council. He has been a member of a number of national education and training policy advisory and funding bodies including the Employment and Skills Formation Council and the ANTA Research Advisory Council. He has acted as an adviser to the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet and the Commonwealth Minister for Employment, Education and Training.



Richard Slaughter

Foresight International, Queensland

Richard A Slaughter is a writer, practitioner and innovator in Futures Studies and Applied Foresight. He completed a PhD in Futures at the University of Lancaster (UK) in 1982. Since then, he has explored the futures domain through educational work, institutional innovation, social foresight, integral futures and the identification of an evolving knowledge base. During 1999–2004 he was Foundation Professor of Foresight at the Australian Foresight Institute, Melbourne. During 2001–2005 he was President of the World Futures Studies Federation.

He is currently Director of Foresight International, an independent company dedicated to building the Futures field and facilitating the emergence of social foresight. He is the author or editor of some 20 books and many papers on a variety of futures topics.



Julius Roe

*National President
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Julius Roe is the National President of the Australian Manufacturing Workers' Union. He has been an official of the AMWU and its predecessors since 1987 and was a lead negotiator in the process of restructuring the metals award and the introduction of career paths in the industry. Julius is a member of the ACTU Executive.

Julius has had a leadership role in the area of skills and training over the past 20 years. He has been a member of the Australian National Training Authority (ANTA) Board, the National Training Board, the National Training Quality Council and related bodies.

Julius was appointed along with Peter Thomas and Maria Tarrant to conduct a major inquiry into VET for the Victorian Government in 2006.

Julius is currently a member of the Victorian Skills Commission (VSC). He has recently been appointed to the Australian Qualifications Framework Council (AQF Council) representing the Vocational, Education and Training Sector.

Since 2001 Julius has been a member of the Executive of the International Metalworkers' Federation representing the Asia Pacific Region.
