



2017

CAREER TRENDS

IN FOCUS



2017 TRENDS IN FOCUS

Your job as a career educator got harder in 2017.

The pace of change increased and your learning curve got steeper.

Parents got more anxious.....

.....and they started to put more pressure on schools to future - proof their kids.

Just as we had got into our heads around school leavers having 17 jobs in 5 industries..... the numbers went up.



I have had 5 jobs + gigs in the past 10 years so 30 or 40 jobs might be the new normal.

2017 Trends In Focus synthesizes the events and developments in career education this year. I have aimed to pull together information that will help you to make important choices for career education in 2018.

JOB APPLICATIONS

We need to know how to capture skills in CVs rather than uneven work histories. Big companies are searching key words in job applications so we need to know how to get our skills out there and shortlisted by the algorithms.

DIGITAL IDENTITIES

Digital Identities became more important in 2017.

LinkedIn is working on a CV portfolio solution to accommodate the gig economy and in WA Curtin has started to work with CCI to create a model that will suit our needs.

In the meantime awareness of the need to create pristine digital footprints sent students off to [change their social media settings](#).

LIFELONG LEARNING

The need for lifelong learning is sinking in. Tony Mackay, a board member of the [Foundation for Young Australians](#), told the [Financial Review](#):

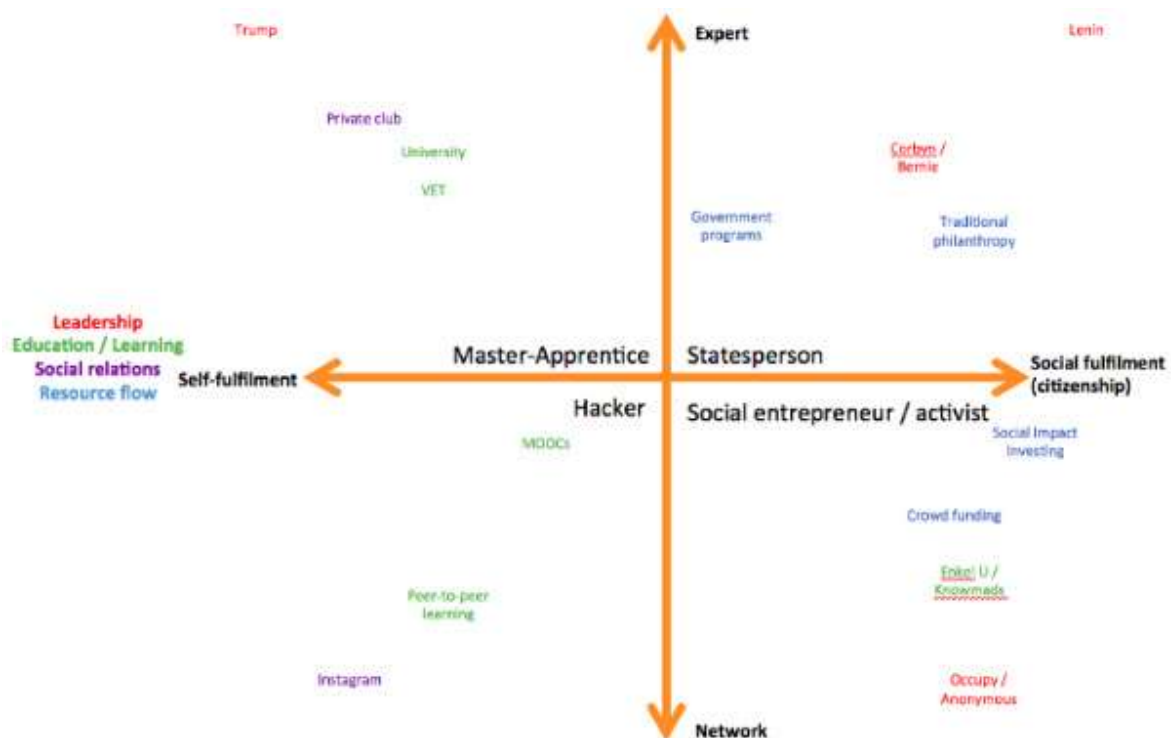
The coming generation of adults won't be "earning a living", they'll be "learning a living".

FUTURE OF EDUCATION

Adam Jorlen is a WA based futurist who ran a workshop at the [enkel collective](#) in July that looked at various possible futures for education.

We came up with [4 archetypes](#):

1. **Expert leadership aimed at self-fulfilment.** This is our traditional master - apprentice learning model.
2. **Expert leadership model aimed at social fulfilment.** An example of this would be the Dalai Lama.
3. **Network supported for self-fulfilment.** Networked learning is trending. This archetype supports learners hacking into networks to gain personal/work skills.
4. **Network supported for social fulfilment.** Learners collaborate to create a better world.



Four archetypes for the future of education ([enkel collective](#), [@DMc_Gin](#))



2017 TRENDS IN FOCUS

CO-CREATING OUR FUTURE

In WA schools and families are moving from the Expert architype to the Network architype in an effort to activate holistic, responsive learning.

This year has seen a significant increase in collaboration between schools and:

- Parents and the school alumni.
- Other schools
- Industry
- Community services endeavours
- Universities

COMPETITIONS AND EVENTS

There has been a boom in [competitions and events, particularly with a STEM focus](#) and with [an enterprise focus](#). These are frequently a catalyst for increased engagement with families and external experts. To see a range of opportunities go [HERE](#).

TRADITIONAL OUT OF SCHOOL PROGRAMS

Students continue to engage with traditional, organised, out of school activities like sport, music lessons, religious activities and [a range of cadet programs](#) like emergency services cadets, surf lifesaving and conservation groups.

LEARNING NETWORKS FOR STUDENTS

Western Australia is blitzing the [CoderDojo](#) movement where kids learn to code of of school. Clubs like [HackerPals](#) and [Education Lab](#) add to the networked learning movement.

FUNDING

Networked learning efforts are frequently resourced through crowd funding or private enterprise like the [Bendigo Bank Community Funding](#).



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FLEXIBLE LEARNING

- The [School of Isolated and Distance Education \(SIDE\)](#) continues to lead flexible distance learning pedagogy in Western Australia.
- **VETiS** programs offer a policy framework and procedures to support increased flexibility in the education system. More collaboration between the school and VET sectors will maximise potential benefits.
- Universities have been quick to engage with **MOOCs**. They have created systems that enable the recognition of knowledge and skills in a portfolio of evidence that equates to a qualification.
- I anticipate great minds in [SCASA](#) will be grappling with how to create systems that enable recognition of skills through a more flexible qualification framework, while education administrators will be thinking about business models for MOOCs in schools.

LEARNING NETWORKS FOR EDUCATORS

Subject specific groups, like the English Teachers' Association and management specific groups like the Principals' Association have been the mainstay of professional thinking by WA educators. Those organisations are maintaining excellence and expanding their scope to engage with careers, like the [WA Maths Association](#).

Cross disciplinary networks are also emerging. In an effort to build collaboration. Kim Flintoff, from Curtin University, established the [Learning Futures Network](#) where the trailblazers are sharing their successes and failures. The [Fogarty Foundation](#) launched the EDfutures initiative. Both of these are open to those who would like to explore and gain support for education ideas.

ENHANCED INDUSTRY PARTNERSHIPS

There has been increased awareness that [employers want students to be more work ready](#).

In addressing this the [Preparing Young People for the Future of Work](#) report recommends expanding apprenticeships to more industries and to bachelor level degrees so that students gain these skills.

VET EMERGING AS THE FLEXIBLE SOLUTION

The growing need for “learning a living” has seen the VET sector emerging because it already has the policy settings and procedures that allow flexible, just-in-time skills development.



VET allows you to do the “mega courses” that take years to complete ...

and “nano courses” that take less than a day.



- You can find a recent article about emerging opportunities for the VET sector in the Financial Review [HERE](#) and BCA Chief Executive Jennifer Westacott’s presentation on October 11th that stressed a renewed focus on VET [HERE](#).
- Robert Sobrya is one of the keynote speakers at the DTWD [Summer Shorts 2017](#) webinar on 1st December. He has some interesting ideas on how the VET sector can respond to emerging skills needs.
- WA’s [funding of priority occupations](#) has always meant that training for high demand jobs has been cheaper. I can see this funding model becoming more flexible and responsive to rapidly changing demands.

REFRAMING VET AND TAFE

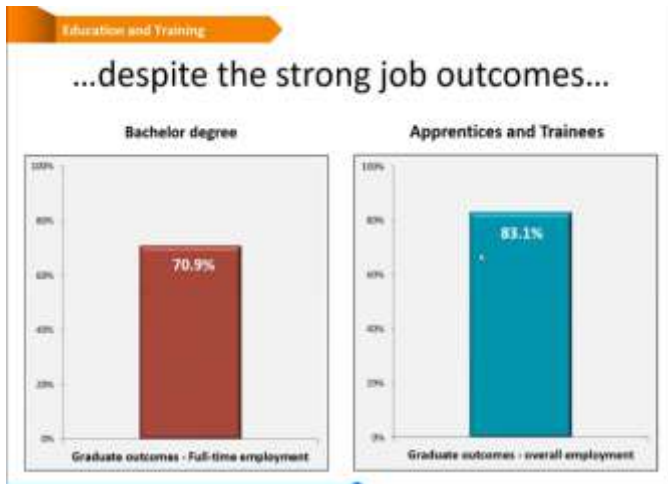
FUNDING CHANGES HIT PRIVATE TRAINING PROVIDERS

The VET sector began 2017 with changes to Commonwealth funding policies which hit those shonky training providers that had been gouging the student loan system.

That policy change resulted in big training providers like [Careers Australia](#) going into receivership.

AWARENESS OF VET ADVANTAGES

Calls for a refocus of funding to the VET sector by people like [Jennifer Westacott](#) of the Business Council of Australia are supported by evidence showing apprenticeships and traineeships deliver good job outcomes.¹



¹ From [CDA webinars](#) Ivan Neville from the Commonwealth Department of Employment.



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UNIVERSITY TRENDS

UNIS DISRUPT SENIOR SCHOOL

Early entry to universities is disrupting traditional senior schooling.

Early entry initiatives by Notre Dame have been joined by engineering faculties across WA universities that offer early places to high achieving students in the middle of year 12.

Now Central Queensland University is giving high achieving year 10 students the opportunity to [Start Uni Now](#).

In addition, all universities in Western Australia are providing education services to the high school sector. I attempted to capture opportunities for schools to engage with WA universities in the *What Universities Do for School Students* feature in the August **Careers Newsletter**.

ALTERNATIVE PATHWAYS

There has also been a growth in the range of alternate pathways into uni which I keep updating on the [In Focus webpage](#). The providers are now sending me information as soon as they have introduced something new.

STUDENT SUPPORT AT UNIS IMPROVES

Between 2008 – 2015 enrolments in universities increased 46%. The high attrition rate of First-In-Family students to go to uni has resulted in research leading to [a helpful First in Family web initiative](#). There are now many specialised support programs and scholarships like the First in Family scholarship and support from the [Country Education Foundation](#) to make the move from school to uni less of a giant leap.

KEEPING UP

The emerging gig economy is driving the need for gig education and our policy settings and our education systems aren't suited to that world.

If you have checked to see [if a robot will take your job](#) you may think teachers don't need to change. You do. Trailblazers in schools across Western Australia are trying to figure out how and the In Focus Careers Newsletter, [Teach Meet](#) and education networks will help you to cope with the accelerating rate of change.

To subscribe to the In Focus Careers Newsletter email Bev.J@infocus-careers.com.au