

“Empowering Industry Through Applied Learning: A Transnational VET Model”

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Abstract:

In the face of rapid digital transformation and evolving global labor demands, vocational education and training (VET) systems must adopt innovative, evidence-based approaches to workforce development. This paper proposes a transnational Australia–US VET collaboration that advances applied, industry-embedded learning aligned with RMIT’s Knowledge with Action 2030 strategy, highlighting impact, inclusion, and real-world engagement. Employing a comparative qualitative design, the study analyzes policy developments, industry advisory insights, and case studies across Australia and the United States to explore AI-enabled learning environments, digital literacy integration, and co-designed curricula that strengthen workforce readiness. Data include stakeholder interviews, Industry Advisory Committee feedback, and curriculum mapping analyses to assess alignment between emergent industry capabilities and vocational training frameworks. Findings indicate that AI-assisted teaching tools, data-informed curriculum design, and work-integrated learning (WIL) enhance learner adaptability, governance awareness, and industry responsiveness. The transnational framework demonstrates how regulatory alignment, digital innovation, and applied assessment can bridge skills gaps and support workforce mobility across borders. The paper offers a scalable model for policymakers and educators to modernize VET through AI, strategic industry partnerships, and evidence-informed practice.