

Industry based vocational education and training in Australia and New Zealand

Chris Dunn

Victoria University of Wellington

ABSTRACT

Since the 1980s much emphasis has been placed on the need for a dramatic re-orientation towards workplace education and training in order to up-skill employees to participate in the global knowledge society and contribute to the development and growth of national economies.

There are similarities in the ways that government and industries in Australia and New Zealand have responded to these concerns. Both countries have moved away from traditional apprenticeship training to introduce new approaches to industry based vocational education and training that have produced rapid growth in the number of participants. However there are a number of significant differences in the structure and philosophy of training provision in each country that raise questions about the comparative efficacy of the actual processes, and the relevance of the outcomes to the intended goals. Comparing the two 'systems' helps us step back from the fog of policy and quantitative achievement to raise issues of concern.

