International Specialised Skills Institute

35 YEARS since 1991

Celebrating 35 years of Global Learning, Local Impact

International Specialised Skills Institute

Annual Report

2026

International Specialised Skills Institute

35 YEARS since 1991

The International Specialised Skills Institute
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Staff & Board

ISSI Staff



Katrina Jojkity
Chief Executive Officer



Kay Schlesinger
Program Manager



Keith Beecher OAM
Finance Manager



Abigail Rowntree
Social Media | Content



Florentina Mertoiu
Communications | Design

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Chair



Alisia Romanin
Secretary



Adrian Capogreco
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Board Member



Amalia Di Iorio AM
Board Member



Susan Renouf
Board Member



Robert Buckingham
Board Member

Patrons



Lady Potter AC
Patron in Chief



Tony Schiavello AM
Patron



Mark Kerr
Patron



James MacKenzie AO
Patron

About Us

Building Skills. Sharing Knowledge. Creating Impact.

For 35 years, ISS Institute has helped Australians learn from international practice and bring new ideas, skills and knowledge back to their industries and communities.

Established in 1991, ISS Institute is an independent not-for-profit organisation dedicated to building Australia's capability through international applied research, skills acquisition and knowledge transfer.

Our Fellowship programs support individuals to investigate leading international practice, emerging technologies, innovative training approaches and specialist skills that are not yet widely available in Australia. Fellows return with practical insights, recommendations and solutions that strengthen industries, support workforce development and contribute to better outcomes for communities.

Over the past three and a half decades, ISS Institute has supported Fellows working across vocational education and training, manufacturing, healthcare, aged care, construction, clean energy, agriculture, artisan trades, arts, creative industries, social inclusion and community development.

Today, our Fellowship programs continue to respond to the challenges and opportunities facing Australia. From artificial intelligence and cybersecurity to offshore wind energy, workforce inclusion, sustainability and heritage skills preservation, ISS Institute helps ensure that Australian industries and communities benefit from both international expertise and local leadership.

By investing in people, fostering innovation and sharing knowledge, ISS Institute creates lasting impact that extends well beyond individual Fellowship experiences.





International Specialised Skills Institute | 35 YEARS since 1991

CELEBRATING 35 years OF ISS INSTITUTE

35 Years of Global Learning, Local Impact

In 2026, ISS Institute proudly celebrates 35 years of supporting Australians to learn from the world's best and bring that knowledge home.



Since 1991, ISS Institute has invested in people, ideas and innovation, supporting Australians to learn from the world's best and share those learnings across industries, communities and the vocational education sector. Through Fellowships, international research and knowledge exchange, the Institute has helped shape industries, preserve specialist skills and build Australia's workforce capability for more than three decades.

Areas of Impact

Over 35 years, Fellowship research has contributed knowledge and innovation across:

- Vocational Education and Training
- Manufacturing and Advanced Industry
- Arts, Design and Creative Practice
- Conservation and Heritage Skills

By the Numbers



600+ Fellowships

Supporting Australians to undertake international applied research and knowledge exchange across diverse industries and professions



600+ Published Reports

Creating one of Australia's largest publicly accessible collections of international applied research, workforce capability and skills development resources. The Fellowship report remains the cornerstone of the ISS Institute knowledge-sharing model.



40+ Countries

Fellows have travelled globally to investigate leading practice, innovation and emerging trends, bringing world-leading insights back to Australia.

Impact Beyond the Fellowship





30%

have established a new business, organisation or project as a result of Fellowship knowledge, networks and opportunities.



55%

believe their Fellowship directly benefited their industry or sector.



75%+

reported enhanced knowledge, skills and professional capability.



95%

of Fellows continue to apply their Fellowship learning in their work.



Food, Agriculture and Hospitality



Health and Aged Care



Environment and Sustainability



Building and Construction



Justice and Community Services



Emerging Technologies and Future Workforce Development.



A message from the Chair

It is a privilege to write my first message as Chair of the International Specialised Skills Institute, having stepped into the role in February 2026, and particularly meaningful to do so as the Institute celebrates its **35th anniversary.**

Thirty-five years is an important milestone. Since 1991, ISS Institute has created opportunities for Australians to look beyond our borders, learn from international best practice and bring that knowledge home. At the heart of that work is a simple but enduring idea: i**nvesting in people, their skills and their capacity to innovate can create change far beyond the individual.**

As I begin my tenure as Chair, I would particularly like to acknowledge Professor Amalia Di Iorio AM for her outstanding leadership over the past decade. Amalia has been a passionate advocate for the Institute and has played an important role in strengthening the organisation, its partnerships and its impact. On behalf of the Board, I thank her sincerely for her leadership and contribution.

During my first year as Chair, I have been struck by both the breadth of the Institute's work and the commitment of our Fellows. In 2026, Fellows explored areas ranging from artificial intelligence, cybersecurity and workforce capability to community development, heritage conservation, traditional craft practice and vocational education.

While extraordinarily diverse, these Fellowships share a common purpose: **to identify better ways of doing things and translate international knowledge into practical benefit for Australia.**

The introduction of the Skills SA International Research Fellowship and the Lady Shirley Gobbo Fellowship this year further extends that opportunity. Equally important is the knowledge our Fellows contribute after their Fellowship experience. More than 25 Fellowship reports were published during 2026, adding to a substantial and growing body of practical knowledge available to educators, industry, policymakers, practitioners and communities across Australia.

Looking ahead, I believe the Institute's mission is becoming **more important, not less.** Australia is navigating significant change across technology, skills, workforce capability and the way industries and communities operate. In this environment, the capacity to connect Australians with leading international practice, bring new ideas into our national context and convert those ideas into practical outcomes is increasingly valuable.









Our challenge for the next chapter is therefore not simply to preserve the legacy of the past 35 years, but to **amplify its impact**.

This means building stronger connections between the insights of our Fellows, the expertise of our partners and the broader skills and workforce challenges facing Australia. Increasingly, our focus must be on translating individual Fellowship knowledge into **shared capability, improved practice and system-level insight.**

It also means continuing to evolve as an organisation. Like many not-for-profit organisations, ISS Institute operates in an environment of increasing competition for funding, rising expectations and rapid technological change. Our continued success will depend on remaining focused on our purpose while strengthening our partnerships, extending our reach and finding new ways to convert knowledge into meaningful impact.

None of this would be possible without our partners and supporters. I sincerely thank the Victorian Skills Authority, Skills SA, the George Alexander Foundation, Mason Family Trust, the Italian Australian Foundation, Lady Shirley Gobbo, the VET Development Centre and AVETRA for their continued confidence and support.

I also thank my fellow Board members and the ISS Institute team, led by Dr Katrina Jojkity, for their professionalism, commitment and care. Their work ensures our Fellows are supported from the beginning of their journey through to sharing their knowledge and creating impact within their sectors and communities.

As we celebrate 35 years, we have much to be proud of and much to look forward to. The world will continue to change, new skills will be required and new challenges will emerge.

ISS Institute's role is to ensure Australians continue to have opportunities to learn from the best in the world and, importantly, turn that knowledge into capability, innovation and lasting impact here at home.

Dr Bill Petreski, Chair // International Specialised Skills Institute

A message from the CEO



As we celebrate 35 years of the International Specialised Skills Institute, I am pleased to reflect on the achievements of the past year and the people who have made them possible.

Since 1991, ISS Institute has connected Australians with knowledge, skills and ideas from around the world. Over the past three and a half decades, our Fellows have returned home with new perspectives, practical solutions and valuable professional networks that have helped shape industries, inform education and strengthen communities across Australia. This anniversary provides an opportunity to acknowledge what has been achieved while looking ahead to the opportunities and challenges that lie before us.

The pace of change across industry, education and the workforce continues to create new opportunities for learning and adaptation. Throughout 2026, ISS Institute supported Australians to investigate leading international practice and consider how those learnings might be applied within Australian workplaces, industries and communities.

The breadth of Fellowship activity undertaken during the year reflects both emerging opportunities and enduring challenges. Fellows investigated topics including artificial intelligence, cybersecurity, dyscalculia, prison education, neighbourhood houses, gender equity, health and community services, heritage conservation, traditional craft practice and future workforce capability. While the topics were diverse, each Fellowship was driven by a desire to learn from international experience and bring those insights back to Australia for the benefit of others.

Supporting Fellows extends well beyond the awarding of a Fellowship. Throughout the year, information sessions, inductions, mentoring activities and stakeholder engagement opportunities helped connect prospective applicants, current Fellows and alumni. These activities play an important role in preparing Fellows for their research and supporting them to share their findings with their sectors once they return.

One of the strengths of the ISS Institute model is the way Fellowship outcomes continue to be shared long after a Fellowship has concluded. Through published reports, presentations, discussions with industry and engagement with professional networks, Fellows help ensure that the knowledge and insights gained through international travel reach a much wider audience. In many cases, the greatest value of a Fellowship is not only what the Fellow learns, but how that learning informs practice, contributes to discussion and supports change across a sector over time.

Throughout the year, Fellowship reports remained an important part of this process. Together, they contribute to a substantial body of practical knowledge that is freely available to educators, practitioners, industry leaders and policymakers. They also provide an enduring record of the ideas, approaches and experiences Fellows have gathered from around the world.

None of this work would be possible without the support of our funding partners, Board members, Fellows and alumni. I extend my sincere thanks to the Victorian Skills Authority, Skills SA, the George Alexander Foundation, Mason Family Trust, the Italian Australian Foundation and the Lady Shirley Gobbo. Your support enables Australians to undertake international applied research, build professional networks and bring valuable knowledge back to their industries and communities.

I would also like to acknowledge the commitment of the ISS Institute Board and staff. Their professionalism, care and dedication ensure that Fellows are supported throughout their journeys and that the knowledge gained through Fellowships is shared for the benefit of the wider community.

As we celebrate 35 years of ISS Institute, I remain optimistic about the future. Australia will continue to face change across industry, technology and the workforce, and there will continue to be opportunities to learn from international experience. The work of our Fellows demonstrates the value of being curious, open to new ideas and willing to learn from others.

For 35 years, ISS Institute has helped Australians look beyond their own borders and bring new knowledge home. That commitment remains unchanged, and I look forward to seeing how future Fellows continue to contribute to their industries, communities and professions in the years ahead.

Thank you for being part of our journey.

Dr Katrina Jojkity, Chief Executive Officer // International Specialised Skills Institute



Thank You to our

Partners & Supporters

ISS Institute's work is made possible through the support of our funding partners, sponsors, collaborators and supporters. We are grateful for their shared commitment to lifelong learning, international knowledge exchange and strengthening Australia's skills and workforce capability.

We thank the **Victorian Skills Authority** for its long-standing commitment to vocational education and training and its continued support of the International VET Practitioner Fellowship program. We also acknowledge **Skills SA** for its commitment to professional learning and workforce capability through the Skills SA International Research Fellowship program.

We sincerely thank the **George Alexander Foundation, Mason Family Trust, Italian Australian Foundation** and the **Lady Shirley Gobbo** for supporting opportunities that enable Fellows to explore specialist skills and areas of practice, including heritage trades and conservation, traditional arts, craftsmanship, and the arts. These Fellowships play an important role in preserving rare skills, supporting artistic and cultural traditions, and bringing new knowledge, techniques and ideas back to Australia.

We also acknowledge the **VET Development Centre** for its ongoing support of professional learning and sector engagement activities, including the Illuminate Forum series, and thank **AVETRA** for its partnership in delivering the OctoberVET Applied Research Forum.

Finally, we thank our Fellows, alumni, international hosts, industry partners and supporters. Their willingness to share knowledge, challenge ideas and contribute their expertise is at the heart of ISS Institute's impact.

Together, our partners and supporters are helping to build capability, foster innovation and strengthen Australia's future workforce. For that, we are sincerely grateful.

Case study: Meagan Streader

2025 George Alexander foundation fellow

Traditional Neon Fabrication: The Importance of Preservation in a Contemporary Setting

For artist Meagan Streader, the ISS Institute George Alexander Foundation Fellowship was an opportunity to investigate the future of a craft that sits at the heart of her practice.

Traditional neon fabrication is a specialised skill that combines artistic expression with technical expertise. While neon continues to be used by contemporary artists around the world, opportunities to learn the craft are becoming increasingly limited. As experienced practitioners retire and fewer training pathways exist, there is a growing risk that valuable knowledge will be lost.

Through her Fellowship, Meagan travelled to the United States to learn from leading neon fabricators, artists and educators. She visited specialist studios, observed different approaches to training and conservation, and examined how neon skills are being passed on to new generations of practitioners.

One of the clearest findings from her research was the importance of learning directly from experienced makers. Many aspects of neon fabrication cannot be learnt through formal instruction alone. They are developed through observation, repetition and years of practice. Meagan found that studios with strong mentoring cultures were not only preserving technical knowledge but also creating pathways for emerging artists to enter the field and develop their skills.

The Fellowship gave Meagan access to knowledge, techniques and professional networks that would have been difficult to find in Australia. Working alongside experienced practitioners expanded her understanding of contemporary neon practice and provided new perspectives on how specialist craft skills can be sustained within a modern artistic context.

The experience has continued to influence her work. Since returning to Australia, Meagan has presented major new projects and exhibitions that build on her ongoing exploration of light, materiality and the built environment. Her practice continues to draw attention to the relationship between making, place and craftsmanship while demonstrating the contemporary relevance of skills that are often regarded as niche or at risk of disappearing. [chapelstreet.com.au]

While her research focused on neon fabrication, the issues she explored are relevant across many specialist arts and heritage trades. Questions about mentoring, succession planning and skills transfer are being faced by practitioners working in conservation, traditional crafts and other specialised fields throughout Australia.

Meagan's research highlights the value of creating opportunities for emerging practitioners to learn directly from experienced makers. It also demonstrates the important role that artists, studios and cultural organisations can play in ensuring specialist knowledge continues to be shared and developed.

Since completing the Fellowship, Meagan has continued to share her findings through her report, exhibitions and professional networks. In doing so, she has contributed to a broader discussion about preserving specialist craft skills and supporting their place within contemporary creative practice.

For Meagan, the Fellowship strengthened her practice, expanded her professional networks and connected her with an international community of artists and fabricators. For the broader sector, her work provides practical examples of how specialist knowledge can be sustained through mentorship, training and ongoing engagement between generations of practitioners.

ACTIVITIES, COMMUNICATIONS & EVENTS

Connecting Ideas, People and Practice

Throughout 2026, ISS Institute continued to bring together Fellows, educators, industry leaders, researchers and policymakers through a broad program of information sessions, Fellow inductions, sector events and knowledge-sharing activities. These initiatives play an important role in ensuring that Fellowship opportunities remain accessible, that Fellows are well supported in their research journeys, and that the knowledge generated through Fellowships is shared widely for the benefit of industry, education and the broader community.

Information sessions were delivered throughout the year across the Institute's Fellowship programs, helping prospective applicants understand the Fellowship process and encouraging participation from a diverse range of sectors and professions. Newly appointed Fellows were also supported through induction programs that prepared them for international applied research, stakeholder engagement and the dissemination of Fellowship outcomes.

A highlight of the year was the continued growth of the Illuminate Forum series, delivered in partnership with the VET Development Centre and supported by the Victorian Skills Authority. The forums provide a platform for Fellows and sector leaders to share emerging ideas, practical innovations and international learnings that can strengthen vocational education and training in Australia.

In June, ISS Institute hosted the Illuminate Forum Building Capability and Capacity within the VET Sector Using AI and Cybersecurity. The forum explored the opportunities and challenges associated with artificial intelligence, digital capability and cybersecurity within vocational education and training. The event showcased the work of ISS Institute Fellows who are applying international research and practical experience to support innovation in teaching, learning and workforce development.

Presentations were delivered by Leigh Dwyer (2024 International VET Practitioner Fellow) on integrating artificial intelligence into curriculum and assessment design, Nicola Russell (2025 International VET Practitioner Fellow) on building digital and AI capability, Faraz Khan (2025 International VET Practitioner Fellow) on cybersecurity education and digital resilience, and Thuy Cao (2024 International

VET Practitioner Fellow) on using AI to enhance student engagement and learning outcomes. The forum concluded with interactive workshops that provided practical tools and strategies for educators seeking to build capability in these rapidly evolving areas.

In October, ISS Institute presented a second Illuminate Forum, Skills for the Next Wave: Building Capability for Future Industries. The forum focused on workforce capability for emerging industries, including offshore wind and the transition to a clean economy. Bringing together representatives from industry, government and vocational education, the event explored how education and training providers can develop the adaptable, transferable skills required by future industries and evolving workforce needs.

The forum formed part of ISS Institute's Incoming International Fellowship Program and featured offshore wind workforce specialist Laura Smith, Incoming International VET Leader Fellow. Laura's keynote presentation explored international approaches to workforce planning, capability development and skills strategies required to support major industry transformation and the growth of renewable energy sectors.

The October forum also highlighted the ongoing contribution of ISS Institute Fellows. Bill Mundy (2020 International VET Practitioner Fellow), Emma O'Donovan (2023 International VET Practitioner Fellow) and Ross Digby (2023 International VET Practitioner Fellow) shared insights drawn from their Fellowship research and professional practice, demonstrating how international knowledge can be applied to workforce development, sustainability and industry innovation in Australia. Their presentations reinforced the enduring value of the Fellowship program and the long-term impact Fellows continue to have within their industries.

Laura Smith's visit extended beyond the forum itself and included meetings and discussions with government agencies, industry representatives, educators and workforce development organisations. These engagements created valuable opportunities for international knowledge exchange and strengthened connections between education, industry and emerging workforce priorities.

ISS Institute also partnered with the Australian Vocational Education and Training Research Association (AVETRA) to deliver the 2026 OctoberVET Applied Research Forum. The online event brought together researchers, educators and practitioners to share applied research and explore issues affecting vocational education and training. Presentations were delivered by Paul Hrasko (2025 International VET Practitioner Fellow), Candace Van Der Krogt (2025 International VET Practitioner Fellow), Freyja Dixon (2025 International VET Practitioner Fellow) and Kerri Ledingham (2024 International VET Practitioner Fellow), contributing to important discussions about research, innovation and evidence-informed practice across the VET sector.

Throughout the year, ISS Institute maintained an active communications program designed to promote Fellowship opportunities, share Fellowship outcomes and celebrate the achievements of Fellows and alumni. Through newsletters, website content, social media, stakeholder engagement and the publication of Fellowship reports, the Institute continued to showcase the impact of international applied research across vocational education and training, industry, sustainability, health, community services and the creative industries.

The publication and promotion of 20 Fellowship reports remained central to the Institute's work. These reports capture international best practice, specialist knowledge and practical recommendations that can be applied across sectors. Together, they continue to build a significant and growing body of knowledge that supports innovation, workforce capability and lifelong learning throughout Australia.

As ISS Institute celebrates 35 years of operation, the year's activities and events reflected the strength of the Fellowship model: connecting people with global expertise, fostering collaboration and ensuring that knowledge gained through international experience creates lasting value for Australia.

Illuminate Forums:

Building Capability & Capacity within the VET Sector Using AI

The Illuminate Forum on June 12th 2026 focused on how artificial intelligence and cybersecurity are shaping capability and capacity across the VET sector. This hybrid event brought together ISS Institute Fellows, educators and industry experts to share practical insights, applied research and innovative approaches to digital learning. The forum highlighted emerging trends in AI and cybersecurity, explored the application of digital tools in teaching and learning, and demonstrated strategies to enhance student engagement, participation and completion across diverse VET settings.

Following the morning presentations, attendees participated in specialised interactive workshops designed to build practical skills and confidence. Led by industry experts, these sessions explored applied AI tools for teaching, learning and assessment, as well as everyday cybersecurity practices to help educators and organisations better protect themselves from digital threats. Through hands-on activities and real-world examples, participants gained actionable strategies to strengthen digital capability and support future-focused VET practice.

Skills for the Next Wave: Building Capability for Future Industries

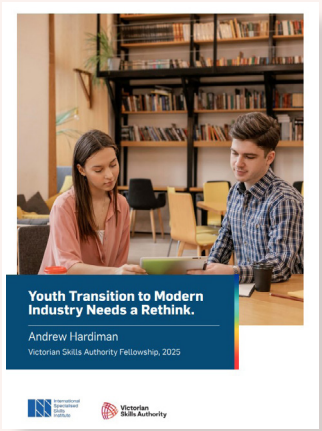
Held on 15 October 2026 at the VET Development Centre in Melbourne, Skills for the Next Wave: Building Capability for Future Industries brought together vocational education leaders, educators and industry experts to explore how training and workforce development can support emerging industries and the transition to a clean economy. The forum featured keynote speaker Laura Smith, ISS Institute's Incoming International VET Leader Fellow, who shared international perspectives on workforce capability, adaptability and the skills required for future industries. Fellowship presentations from Bill Mundy, Emma O'Donovan and Ross Digby provided practical insights into offshore wind, clean economy workforce development and industry collaboration. The forum generated valuable discussion and strong engagement from participants, highlighting the important role vocational education plays in developing a future-ready workforce and strengthening Australia's capability in emerging industries.



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2026 Published reports

Click report image to view online report



Andrew Hardiman

2022 International VET Practitioner Fellowship (VSA)

Youth transition to modern industry needs a rethink



Melanie Williams

2024 International VET Practitioner Fellowship (VSA)

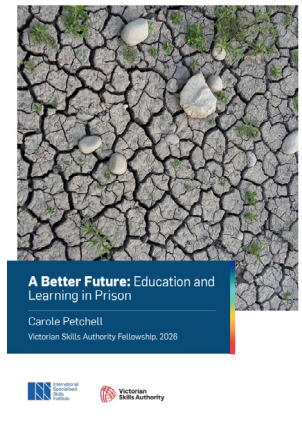
Vocational excellence: Global insights, local futures for TAFE Centres of Excellence



Tracy Pearce

2025 International VET Practitioner Fellowship (VSA)

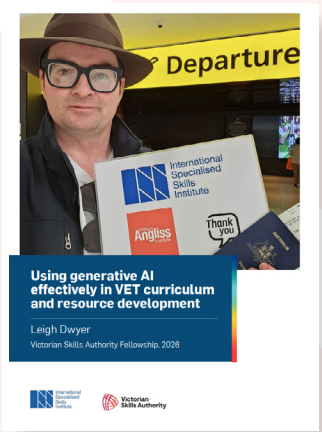
Vocational Centres of Excellence: Applying global best practice to the Australian context of Health and Community Services



Carole Petchell

2024 International VET Practitioner Fellowship (VSA)

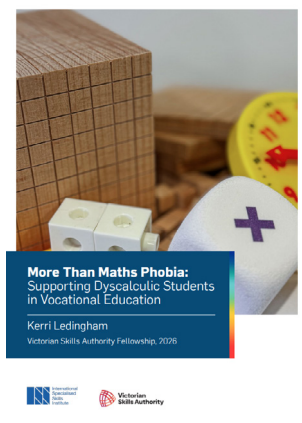
A Better Future: Education and Learning in Prison



Leigh Dwyer

2024 International VET Practitioner Fellowship (VSA)

Using generative AI effectively in VET curriculum and resource development



Kerri Ledingham

2024 International VET Practitioner Fellowship (VSA)

More Than Maths Phobia: Supporting Dyscalculic Students in Vocational Education

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Rebecca Boehme

2025 Mason Family Trust Fellowship

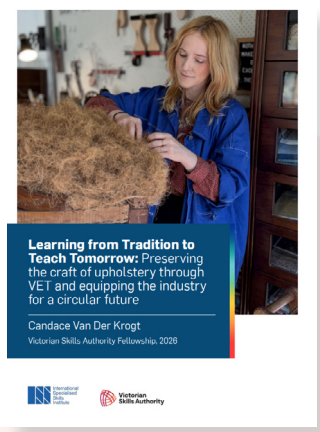
Preserving Australia's Stained Glass Windows: Shedding Light on Best Practice Stained Glass Restoration and Conservation Techniques



Freyja Louise Dixon

2025 International VET Practitioner Fellowship (VSA)

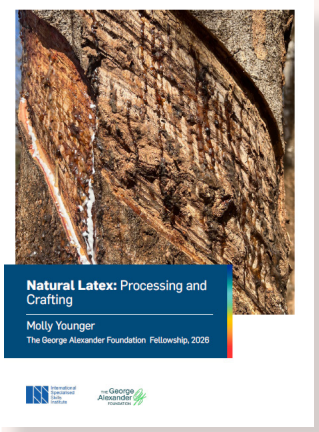
Neighbourhood Houses as Social Infrastructure: Local Practice, Global Relevance



Candace Van Der Krogt

2025 International VET Practitioner Fellowship (VSA)

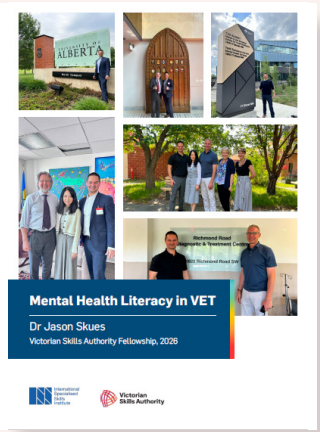
Learning from Tradition to Teach Tomorrow: Preserving the craft of upholstery through VET and equipping the industry for a circular future



Molly Younger

2025 George Alexander Foundation Fellowship

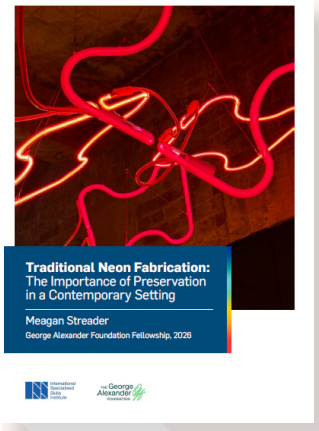
Natural Latex: Processing and Crafting



Jason Skues

2022 International VET Practitioner Fellowship (VSA)

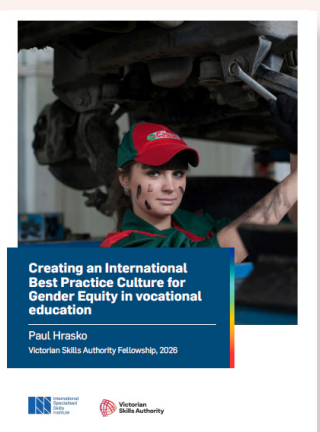
Mental Health Literacy in VET



Meagan Streader

2025 George Alexander Foundation Fellowship

Traditional Neon Fabrication: The Importance of Preservation in a Contemporary Setting



Paul Hrasko

2025 International VET Practitioner Fellowship (VSA)

Creating an International Best Practice Culture for Gender Equity in Vocational Education



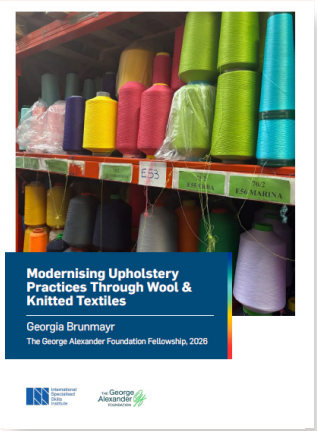
Cody Winward

2025 Mason Family Trust Fellowship

At the Edge of Survival: Re-establishing Passementerie in Australia within a diminishing Global Industry

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Georgia Brunmayr

2024 George Alexander Foundation Fellowship

Modernising Upholstery Practices Through Wool & Knitted Textiles



Thuy Thi Hong Cao

2024 International VET Practitioner Fellowship

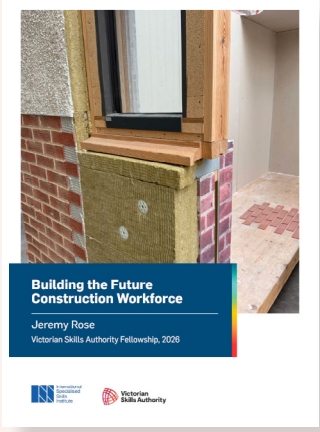
AI Integration for Student Engagement



Faraz Khan

2025 International VET Practitioner Fellowship

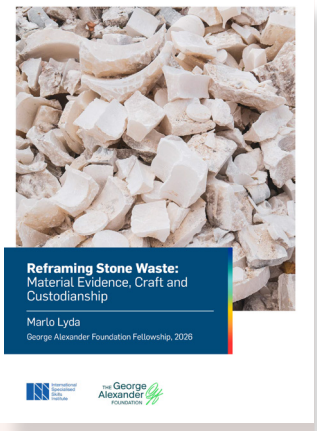
Teaching the Future: Integrating Cybersecurity into Education



Jeremy Rose

2025 International VET Practitioner Fellowship

Building the Future Construction Workforce



Marlo Lyda

2025 George Alexander Foundation Fellowship

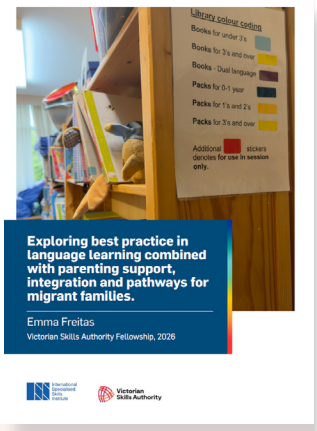
Reframing Stone Waste: Material Evidence, Craft and Custodianship



Jordan Fleming

2025 George Alexander Foundation Fellowship

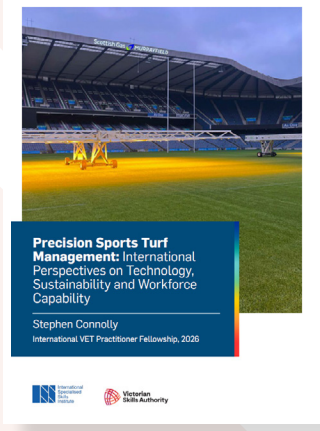
Reviving Lost Trades: Vitreous Enamel in Contemporary Australian Design



Emma Freitas

2025 International VET Practitioner Fellowship

Exploring best practice in language learning combined with parenting support, integration and pathways for migrant families.



Stephen Connolly

2025 International VET Practitioner Fellowship (VSA)

Precision Sports Turf Management: International Perspectives on Technology, Sustainability and Workforce Capability

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Alain Grosbard

Impact



Alain is a ISS Institute Fellowship recipient whose Fellowship directly inspired the development of a Work-Integrated Learning and Internship program that has delivered sustained impact across education, industry, and international partnerships from 2015 to 2026.

Alain's Fellowship experience was centred on translating professional practice into structured student opportunity, with a strong focus on connecting academic learning to real-world industry, government, community, and international projects. As he reflected, the Fellowship's benefits have been "just how significant" in shaping his academic and professional outcomes, particularly through the long-term establishment of a program that embeds students in live client work.

The Fellowship had a profound professional impact through the creation and expansion of a Work-Integrated Learning and Internship program that has now delivered 21 industry, government, community, and international partnerships over more than a decade. These projects have included campaigns for organisations such as Ambulance Victoria, Peroni Beer, Beaurepaires Tyre and Care Service, and St Vincent's Hospital, alongside international collaborations in Spain, Dubai, Ireland, the Netherlands, and the United Kingdom. The program has enabled students to work on live briefs across digital marketing, PR, communications, health, sport, education, tourism, and FMCG sectors, with graduates consistently attributing their first professional roles to this experience.

In a broader sense, the Fellowship has contributed significantly to the sector by embedding a model of applied learning that is both scalable and accessible, with all projects delivered to partner organisations entirely free of charge. This approach has strengthened relationships between education and industry while expanding opportunities for students to engage with real clients and complex communication challenges.

The Fellowship's lasting impact is evidenced through a sustained partnership record including initiatives such as a concussion and CTE awareness campaign with the Concussion and CTE Foundation (2026), a mental health and AI support initiative for retired AFL players with FifthQTR Foundation (2026), renewable energy communications work with Solar Serve Group in Dubai (2025), education technology campaigns with Zizenzic (2024), and health-focused projects with St Vincent's Hospital Cancer Centre (2022). Collectively, these outcomes demonstrate a long-term contribution to industry engagement, student employability, and innovative communication practice.




Li Cs K Ba Ca






TAFE GIPPSLAND
A skilled and thriving Gippsland
ATLAS


Victorian Skills
Jobs, Skills, Industry and Regions



About the Program:

Advancing Australian Professional Excellence Through International Knowledge Exchange

The International Specialised Skills Institute (ISS Institute) Incoming Fellowship program facilitates the engagement of distinguished international experts with Australian professional communities. Sponsored by the Victorian Skills Authority, this initiative creates strategic opportunities for knowledge transfer, enabling Australian education, industry, and government leaders to engage directly with global innovators who share evidence-based practices and transformative insights.

Strategic Value for Australian Organisations and Professionals

The Incoming Fellowship Program delivers unprecedented access to global expertise, enabling Australian professionals to engage directly with innovative methodologies, contemporary research, and evidence-based practices from leading international institutions and organisations. Australian organisations gain immediate access to international perspectives on industry challenges, educational innovation, and policy development. These insights enable local institutions to contextualise and adapt global best practices to Australian operational environments, thereby improving outcomes for students, employees, and communities. The program particularly emphasises practical application, ensuring that visiting experts share immediately actionable strategies rather than purely theoretical frameworks. This approach maximises the immediate impact of each fellowship whilst building sustainable, long-term capacity within Australian organisations. Participants gain direct exposure to cutting-edge professional practices and research from leaders in their respective fields. The program creates networking opportunities that extend substantially beyond the two-week engagement period, with fellows frequently maintaining ongoing professional relationships with Australian colleagues. These connections often lead to collaborative projects, research partnerships, sustained knowledge exchange, and opportunities for future international engagement.

2026 Incoming Fellow – Laura Smith

Laura Smith is a strategic business leader with deep expertise in recruitment and workforce solutions for the energy, marine, and offshore wind sectors. She currently serves as Strategic Business Unit Director – North America at Atlas NextWave, where she oversees U.S. business strategy, operations, and commercial growth. In this capacity, Laura leads collaborative teams to drive operational excellence and deliver tailored staffing solutions that support major offshore projects across the region.

With 15+ years of experience in recruitment, talent acquisition and more recently in a commercial leadership, and strategic development role, Laura has played a pivotal role in expanding Atlas's footprint in the U.S. renewables market, including offshore wind workforce development and industry engagement. She is known for her strong commercial acumen, deep understanding of complex industry staffing needs, labour relations and her commitment to workforce development in energy transition sectors.



2026 Fellows

George Alexander Foundation



Bryony Cavallaro // Bits, Discs and Beyond: Preserving Obsolete Digital Carriers

Bryony's Fellowship addresses the urgent challenge of preserving born-digital cultural heritage stored on obsolete carriers such as floppy disks and CD-ROMs. As these media physically degrade and the hardware and software required to access them disappear, significant portions of recent history are at risk of permanent loss. The Fellowship will investigate current digital preservation practices, examining the challenges, workflows, and tools used by leading institutions to stabilise, process, and provide access to complex digital artefacts while maintaining their context and authenticity. Through hands-on engagement with established preservation programs in Europe, the Fellowship will strengthen technical capability in areas including carrier handling, data recovery, and emulation. It will also build specialised knowledge and professional relationships within the digital preservation community, enabling the transfer of tested approaches to Australian institutions and improving long-term care of digital cultural heritage.



Genevieve Elliott // The Craft of French Savoir-Faire: Investigating Material, Process and Fashion Practice

Genevieve is a fashion designer and material-led researcher whose Fellowship focuses on preserving French savoir-faire within contemporary Australian design. Genevieve's Fellowship will investigate specialist artisan techniques including embroidery, textile floristry, featherwork and textile manipulation, with a focus on advancing three-dimensional surface design. Through collaboration with leading ateliers and craftspeople in Paris, her research will centre on hands-on technical training and mentorship within globally significant maisons. Travelling to France, Genevieve will engage with institutions, archives and craftspeople, gaining insight into the transmission and preservation of rare craft knowledge. The Fellowship will strengthen technical expertise, establish international connections, and support the development of a digital archive and education program, ensuring these skills can be shared, sustained and reimagined within Australia's creative sector.



Gracie O'Malley-Welby // Rebuilding with Earth: Scaling Contemporary Compressed Earth Block Construction in Australia

Gracie O'Malley-Welby is an architectural graduate and design researcher exploring how low-carbon building materials can be made and used more widely in Australia. Her Fellowship focuses on compressed earth blocks, a grounded construction method made from local soils and mineral by-products, with minimal cement and no firing. While widely used overseas, they remain uncommon in Australia due to limited production and design knowledge. Earth blocks also bring a distinct material quality: solid, textured and closely tied to the landscapes they come from. Through the Fellowship, Gracie will visit leading European practitioners to learn how these materials are produced, tested and designed at a larger scale. She will bring this knowledge back into her work at Main&Frank, helping to develop practical pathways for using earth-based materials in contemporary Australian architecture.



Rhys Jones // Regional Identity in Timber Craft: Connecting Material, Technique and Place

Rhys' fellowship explores how timber craft practitioners in Europe and the UK are developing supply chain regionalism, material intelligence, and adaptive making strategies to create work that is environmentally sustainable. He will engage with furniture makers, forestry experts, and research bodies to build a comparative study of experimental forming techniques and timber supply networks. Drawing on this research, Rhys will introduce sustainable making strategies into Australian studio practice that connect material, technique, and place. This work aims to diversify the timber sector, reduce dependence on imported materials, and foster regional design language within Australian craft and design.

Mason Family Trust



Poppy Templeton // Beyond Decoration: Stained Glass As Architecture In Mexico

Poppy Templeton is a Melbourne-based stained glass artist who will undertake applied research in Mexico, investigating architectural stained glass in civic, non-religious contexts. In Mexico, stained glass is not a decorative afterthought but a fundamental tool for shaping and transforming public space. A distinct professional model exists in which traditional leadlighters collaborate directly with architects and stained glass is integrated from the earliest stages of design. Mexico presents a unique opportunity to explore how traditional leadlighting operates beyond its usual ecclesiastical setting. By embedding within established studios, Templeton will access lineage-based techniques in large-scale construction and installation that are currently unavailable in Australia. This research is driven by the need to reposition stained glass as a viable architectural material within Australian practice.



Brenda Page // The Marked Surface - Reviving Print and Enamel Traditions for Contemporary Glass Image Making

Brenda Page is a glass artist and educator whose Mason Family Trust Fellowship will take her to the United Kingdom to research the intersection of traditional ceramic and glass paints with copper plate etching, a printmaking technique historically used to transfer imagery onto ceramics before the advent of screen and digital printing. Through hands-on mentorship with leading UK practitioners, Brenda will deepen her knowledge of traditional vitreous enamels and glass paints while expanding her printmaking skills to encompass advanced screen printing, copper plate etching, transfer printing, and decal production. This cross-disciplinary inquiry will enrich both her studio practice and her work as an educator, equipping her to bring a sophisticated blend of historical technique and contemporary application back to the Australian arts community.

Sir James Gobbo Legacy Italian Australian Fellowship



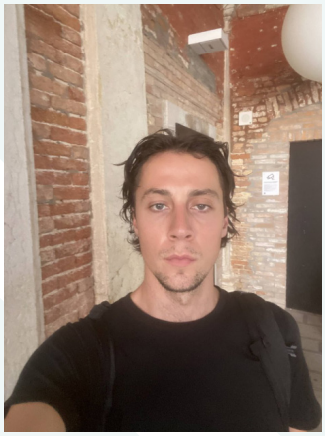
Marcello Zudich // Figurative Sculpture in the Realistic Classical Tradition: Skills in Marble Carving, Bronze Casting and Restoration/ Conservation of Heritage Buildings

Heritage stonemason seeking advanced training in classical sculpture, marble carving and bronze casting in Florence. Aims to bring specialist heritage restoration and artistic skills back to Australia and share them through industry and education.



Alberto Di Troia // Spoken Heritage: Preserving Regional Italian Dialects on Stage and In Performance

Award-winning playwright proposing to study Italian regional dialects and their use in theatre. The project aims to preserve endangered language traditions and strengthen Italian Australian cultural storytelling through performance.



Lucca De Clario // Applying Italian Devotional Ceroplastics to Contemporary Sculpture

Emerging sculptor proposing specialist training in the endangered Italian art of wax sculpture (ceroplastics). The project will introduce rare technical knowledge into Australian sculpture practice and education.

Lady Shirley Gobbo Fellowship



Steven Bellosguardo // Venetian Bronze - Traditional Processes for Contemporary Practice

Bellosguardo will undertake a Fellowship in Italy's Veneto region to develop an integrated sculptural methodology spanning clay modelling, mould-making, and lost-wax bronze casting. Working with historic and contemporary Venetian foundries, he will gain hands-on experience in armature construction, mould systems, wax preparation, casting, and finishing - learning from artisans who continue centuries-old practices. The program follows the traditional Italian production chain from clay to permanent material outcome, offering an end-to-end workflow. As a third-generation stonemason of Italian heritage, Bellosguardo connects intergenerational knowledge with contemporary practice. The Fellowship will expand his capacity to produce durable, large-scale works and be shared through workshops, collaborations, and exhibitions, contributing to the future of material-based sculpture in Australia.

International VET Practitioner Fellowship



Jye Marshall // Bridging the artificial divide between VE (skills) and HE (Knowledge) within Design Education for equitable student engagement.

Jye Marshall's fellowship examines the imbalance within the Australian Qualifications Framework (AQF), where knowledge has been prioritised over skills and vocational education positioned below higher education. In the context of the Fourth Industrial Revolution, the fellowship recognises the growing importance of advanced design skills to Australia's sovereign capability. It investigates how vocational education can be better scaffolded within dual-sector universities to create equitable pathways for students from diverse backgrounds. Engaging with leading international design institutes, the fellowship aims to develop models that harmonise vocational and higher education, ensuring skills-based learners lead in design innovation and excellence.



Laura Fitt // Building a Sustainable Micro Credential Ecosystem for Victoria's Clean Economy Workforce

Laura Fitt proposes to investigate international models of industry funded, subscription based upskilling that enable workers to gain nationally recognised, stackable micro credentials while remaining employed. Her Fellowship will explore systems such as Germany's Chambers of Commerce (IHK) and Singapore's SkillsFuture, focusing on how they coordinate industry, government and training providers to keep qualifications current in rapidly evolving clean economy trades. Laura aims to translate these insights into a Victorian context, where Skills First funding delivered across 12 autonomous TAFEs creates a highly diverse landscape of micro credential approaches. Her goal is to design a viable TAFE consortia model that delivers responsive, industry aligned micro credentials and establishes a sustainable revenue stream for public providers, strengthening workforce transition as clean technologies accelerate.



Matt Tisdale // Fellowship in acquiring skills in Off-Shore wind & Subsea cabling

This Fellowship will focus on strengthening Australia's vocational education and training response to the emerging offshore wind industry, with particular emphasis on subsea cable jointing and turbine-related skills. As offshore wind becomes a critical component of Australia's renewable energy transition, there is an urgent need to develop specialised skills that are currently limited or emerging within the local workforce. Through engagement with leading international training providers, research centres and offshore wind operators, the Fellowship will examine advanced training models, safety frameworks and approaches to industry integration in mature offshore wind markets. The research will inform the design of high-quality, industry-aligned training programs within the Victorian TAFE sector, supporting workforce transition from traditional energy industries into clean energy roles. By strengthening curriculum design, industry partnerships and educator capability, the Fellowship will contribute to building national workforce capacity and supporting Australia's progress toward net zero targets.



Leeanne O'Meara // Fellowship in Investigating Early Childhood Scandinavian nature based and social pedagogical approaches to strengthen Australian practice.

This Fellowship aims to strengthen Australian early childhood education by investigating internationally recognised nature based and social pedagogical approaches—particularly Scandinavian models—and translating them into practical, context specific strategies for the Victorian VET and ECEC sectors. Australian research shows clear developmental benefits of nature rich, play based learning, yet current teacher education and practice remain inconsistent, risk averse, and poorly aligned with this evidence. By studying high quality Danish outdoor programs and their relational, child led pedagogies, the Fellowship will address these gaps and develop best practice guidance, educator tools, and curriculum enhancements. The purpose is to build early childhood teacher/educator capability, reframe risk as a learning opportunity, and embed culturally responsive, nature centred practices that support children's agency, wellbeing, and holistic development. Through professional learning, open access resources, and strong local partnerships, the Fellowship seeks to influence training quality, enrich program design, and contribute to long term pedagogical innovation across the VET and early childhood sectors.



Wayne Ketchen // Growing the Clean Economy Workforce: Boosting Engagement in FutureReady Agriculture

This Fellowship, Growing the Clean Economy Workforce: Boosting Engagement in Future Ready Agriculture, seeks to strengthen how vocational education engages and supports learners in agriculture and horticulture at a time of significant environmental and economic transition. These sectors are central to Victoria's clean, resilient and circular economy, yet continue to face workforce shortages, ageing demographics and low learner completion rates. Through an international study program, the Fellowship will explore proven approaches that place learners at the centre of climate aware, technology enabled and regenerative agricultural training. It will examine applied learning environments, industry embedded education, digital capability, wellbeing informed pedagogy and place based models that build motivation, relevance and persistence. The insights gained will inform practical improvements to curriculum design, learner engagement strategies and workforce development within the Victorian VET context. The Fellowship will also consider how elements of these approaches could be adapted, where appropriate, to support engagement and retention challenges in other VET industry sectors.



Seun Oyekola // Developing Circular Construction Capability through International Best Practice in Tunnel Spoil Reuse

Seun Oyekola is undertaking a Fellowship focused on circular construction and the beneficial reuse of tunnel spoil, the excavated soil and rock generated from major tunnelling projects. The Fellowship aims to turn tunnel spoil from a waste stream into a reusable resource by building the workforce capability needed to support circular construction. The Fellowship will examine international best practice in the United Kingdom and Europe, including regulatory frameworks, material testing, digital tracking systems, risk management and workforce training that enable excavated materials to be safely repurposed for construction, land remediation and other productive uses. Through targeted engagement with industry leaders, training providers and research organisations, the Fellowship will identify practical approaches for Australia and inform microcredentials, curriculum resources and educator capability through Holmesglen Institute and the Victorian Tunnelling Centre.



Peter Komsta // From the Sidelines to the Classroom: Building a World-Class Model for Industry-Embedded Sport Business Education in Victorian VET

Peter Komsta, Director of Business and Enterprise at RMIT's College of Vocational Education, is investigating international best practice in industry-embedded sport business education. Australia's sport industry is worth A$40 billion annually, employs 150,000+ people and encompasses a rapidly growing ecosystem of clubs, federations, media, commercial operations and a sportstech sector where Victoria accounts for nearly half of national employment, yet no systematic, evidence-based framework exists to guide how VET providers build and scale genuine industry-education partnerships. This Fellowship will visit leading institutions in the United Kingdom, Spain and Singapore (including UCFB, Loughborough University, the Education and Training Foundation, the Johan-Cruyff-Institute and the Singapore Sports Hub), as well as cricket-specific education organisations including the MCC Foundation at Lord's, the University of Brighton Cricket Academy and potentially the R66T Academy. Findings will inform a publicly available Industry-Embedded VET Program Design Framework, an educator professional learning program with VDC, and further development of RMIT's Global Sport Business Hub.



Jane McLennan // Future Ready Approaches to Student Success: Global Insights to Improve Outcomes for Priority Learners in Vocational Education

This Fellowship will investigate leading international models that successfully engage at risk learners through wrap around support, inclusive pedagogy and sustainable use of assistive and learning technologies. By examining high performing institutions with strong retention and completion outcomes, the Fellowship will identify scalable approaches that strengthen belonging, early intervention and learner independence across the student lifecycle. Insights will be translated into practical frameworks, professional learning resources and pilot initiatives will be implemented. Broader application across Victorian TAFEs will be considered and the Fellowship will be designed to build sector capability, improve participation and completion for priority cohorts, and ensure VET remains responsive, equitable and future focused.



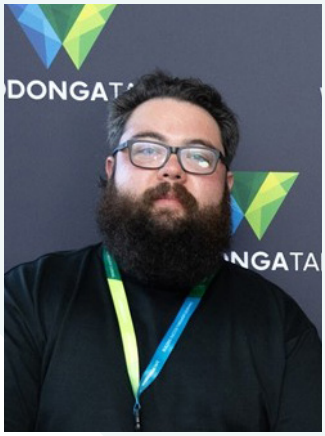
Vanessa DeMonte // Fellowship in Digital Innovation for Dental Technology and Prosthetics

This Fellowship for Dental Technology and Prosthetics Education will support Vanessa DeMonte, Program Coordinator of the Diploma of Dental Technology and Advanced Diploma of Dental Prosthetics at RMIT University, to investigate how leading European providers prepare graduates for modern dental practice. Visiting key institutions in Europe, Vanessa will examine how CAD/CAM, 3D printing and other digital workflows are taught alongside traditional laboratory skills, and how strong links with industry and clinical settings are maintained. Insights gathered through observation, shadowing and consultation will be translated into updated curriculum, assessments and work integrated learning models. The Fellowship outcomes will include enhanced student engagement, improved digital capability and work readiness of graduates, and sector wide professional development opportunities for VET educators in Dental Technology and Dental Prosthetics.



Luisa Drent // Shifting the Front End: Enabling MMC through Design-Led Capability in Australia's Construction Workforce

Luisa Drent is a registered architect, educator and curriculum leader with extensive experience across architectural practice, vocational education and workforce capability development. She is currently working within the Future of Housing Construction Centre of Excellence, where her focus is on emerging construction skills, Modern Methods of Construction, Design for Manufacture and Assembly, and applied training for industry. Her fellowship explores how Australia can better equip architects, designers, building professionals and decision-makers with the design-led, digital and manufacturing capabilities needed to support housing innovation and construction sector transformation.



John Tugliach // Embedding Electric Vehicle Skills, Safety and Knowledge in Automotive Apprentice Training: An International Study of Best Practice

This research project aims to collect, synthesise and practically embed international best practice in Electric Vehicle (EV) training within automotive apprenticeship frameworks, with the goal of strengthening and supporting Australia's adoption of Electric Vehicles. It will investigate how leading international jurisdictions embed EV knowledge, practical skills and safety competence within automotive apprenticeship systems. Focusing on apprenticeship education in countries such as Germany, Norway, China and South Korea, the research intends to examine how EV capability is integrated as a core requirement of the trade, rather than an add-on qualification, supported by clear alignment between training, high voltage safety and workplace responsibility. The study responds to increasing policy and industry concern that current Victorian and national approaches risk falling behind the pace of technological change and the industry-wide pressures of a rapid adoption of electric vehicles by Australian consumers. By identifying transferable international best practices, the project aims to inform future curriculum development, create clear pathways, and support a more consistent, industry endorsed approach to EV training. The outcomes are intended to contribute to strengthening the role of the automotive trade in supporting growing EV adoption and achieving Australia's broader net zero ambitions.

Skills SA Fellowship



Lisa Brennan // Rules as Code for Trustworthy AI Agents: Building VET Learning Products once, adapting across jurisdictions

Through my work at TAFE SA and with the National TAFE Network, I know how much time TAFEs spend developing, checking, and validating course materials, often recreating good work that already exists elsewhere. My Fellowship asks whether there is a better way to support the work needed to confidently share and adapt those products across Australia. I'm exploring an approach called Rules as Code, which means writing rules and requirements so clearly that both people and computers can read, apply, and check them consistently. I want to test whether this can make AI more reliable and trustworthy in supporting educators with validation, and identifying what needs to change, be added or sequenced differently for use in another jurisdiction. Educators would retain final judgement, but with reliable advice that would significantly reduce the time currently spent checking, comparing, and adapting products. I'll visit Singapore, New Zealand, and France to learn from people using this approach, with the aim of helping TAFEs across the nation "build once, adapt as required".



Graham Muller // Community Learning Hubs as Workforce Infrastructure: International Models for Regional Learning Ecosystems

Graham Muller is Co-Founder and Director of SkillUp SA, a South Australian workforce development organisation specialising in Adult Community Education, foundation skills and regional learner pathways. His Skills SA International Research Fellowship will investigate how international education systems strengthen the learner journey beyond foundation learning; supporting adults to progress successfully into vocational education and employment. The research will examine approaches including supported transitions, early vocational and workplace exposure, continuity of learner support, stronger connections between education providers and employers, and ways of tracking progression beyond course completion. Through applied research in Scotland, Ireland and Canada, Graham will identify practical approaches that could be adapted and tested in regional South Australia. The Fellowship aims to strengthen connections between Adult Community Education, vocational education and employment, improving learner progression and supporting greater regional workforce participation.



Rachel Manning // Supporting Clinical Thinking in an Age of Instant Answers: Lessons for Nursing Education

This Fellowship will investigate how nursing educators can continue to develop and assess clinical reasoning, judgement and readiness for practice as Artificial Intelligence (AI) becomes increasingly integrated into learning. While AI offers new opportunities for education, it also raises important questions about how educators can ensure students develop the independent thinking and decision-making required for safe nursing practice. Through engagement with nursing educators, researchers and professional nursing organisations in Canada, including the CAN-Sim Conference and the Canadian Association of Schools of Nursing (CASN) AI in Nursing Education Taskforce, the Fellowship will explore emerging approaches to assessment, simulation and learning design. Insights will be translated into practical guidance and resources for Diploma of Nursing educators in South Australia, supporting assessment integrity and helping ensure graduates can demonstrate the clinical reasoning, judgement and competence required for contemporary nursing practice.



Katherine Hooper // Low-Fidelity, High-Impact: Building Clinical Reasoning in Diploma of Nursing Students Without High-Cost Simulation Technology

Katherine will investigate innovative, low-cost approaches to clinical simulation and structured verbal debriefing in Canadian nursing education, with the aim of strengthening clinical reasoning and decision-making among South Australian Diploma of Nursing students. Through engagement with leading Canadian institutions and the CAN-Sim network, her research will explore effective scenario design, peer role-play, task-trainer activities and evidence-based debriefing techniques that reduce reliance on expensive simulation technology. Katherine's findings will inform the development of a practical, curriculum-aligned simulation scenario bank and structured debriefing guide for Australian nursing educators. These resources will be shared through professional development workshops and sector networks, supporting consistent, accessible and sustainable simulation practices across Registered Training Organisations. Ultimately, Katherine's project aims to improve student preparedness for clinical placement and contribute to a safer, more confident enrolled nursing workforce.



Melissa Slattery // Electronic Medical Records in Simulation: Preparing South Australia's VET Health Workforce for Digital Care

Melissa Slattery's Fellowship will investigate how electronic medical records can be built into simulation-based learning so that vocational health students practise digital documentation before they reach the workplace. Research in Canada will focus on partnerships between colleges and health services that assess student proficiency in simulated records before placement. Through engagement with international educators, health services and simulation specialists, the Fellowship will examine how students learn on the record systems they will use on placement. The research aims to strengthen scenario design, educator capability and placement readiness. The Fellowship will produce practical tools and guidance to help South Australian training providers prepare enrolled nurses and health workers for digital care.



Kathy Pillion // Reimagining Recognition of Prior Learning: International Systems and Assessor Capability for Workforce Credentialling

This Fellowship will investigate how international Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) systems can accelerate workforce credentialling in industries facing critical skills shortages and the need to improve productivity. In conjunction with Angela Coker, it will explore the policy, governance, funding and delivery frameworks that enable effective, accessible and credible RPL, drawing on international practice in Norway and France. A central theme will be the relationship between system design and assessor capability: effective policies and funding arrangements must be supported by skilled practitioners who can apply robust, consistent and fit-for-purpose assessment practices. The research will examine how international approaches connect RPL pathways, assessment quality and workforce needs, identifying opportunities to strengthen RPL implementation in South Australia. By bringing together system-level insights and assessor development considerations, the Fellowship aims to inform practical, sustainable approaches that improve recognition of existing skills, reduce unnecessary training duplication and help industries credential capable workers more efficiently.



Angela Croker // Reimagining Recognition of Prior Learning: International Systems and Assessor Capability for Workforce Credentialling

This Fellowship will investigate how international Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) systems can accelerate workforce credentialling in industries facing critical skills shortages and the need to improve productivity. It will explore the policy, governance, funding and delivery frameworks that enable effective, accessible and credible RPL, drawing on international practice in Norway and France. A central theme will be the relationship between system design and assessor capability: effective policies and funding arrangements must be supported by skilled practitioners who can apply robust, consistent and fit-for-purpose assessment practices. I will be collaborating with Kathy Pillion to undertake this research as a team, whereby Kathy's process and assessor capability focus will complement my system focus. The research will examine how international approaches connect RPL pathways, assessment quality and workforce needs, identifying opportunities to strengthen RPL implementation in South Australia. By bringing together system-level insights and assessor development considerations, my Fellowship aims to inform practical, sustainable approaches that improve recognition of existing skills, reduce unnecessary training duplication and help industries credential capable workers more efficiently.

2026 at a Glance



29

Fellowships awarded

across seven Fellowship programs.

25+

Fellowship reports published

Sharing international research, practical recommendations and sector insights with educators, industry leaders, practitioners and policymakers.

2

New Fellowship programs launched

- Skills SA International Research Fellowship
- Lady Shirley Gobbo Fellowship

2

Illuminate Forums delivered

Bringing together Fellows, educators, industry leaders and policymakers to explore artificial intelligence, cybersecurity and future workforce capability.

1

OctoberVET Applied Research Forum delivered

In partnership with AVETRA, showcasing applied research and evidence-informed practice across the VET sector.

1

Incoming International Fellow welcomed to Australia

Laura Smith, offshore wind workforce specialist from Atlas NextWave, visited Australia through the Victorian Skills Authority Incoming Fellowship Program.

What's Next?

For 35 years, ISS Institute has helped Australians learn from international practice and bring new knowledge, skills and ideas back to Australia.

While the topics, industries and professions have changed over that time, the purpose has remained the same. We support people to learn from the world's best and share those learnings for the benefit of others.

In the years ahead, we want to create even more opportunities for Australians to undertake international applied research. We want to work with more governments, more industries, more philanthropic organisations and more partners who share our belief that investing in people creates lasting value.

We will continue to support Australians to acquire specialist and emerging skills that are not widely available in Australia. We will continue to champion applied research within the vocational education and training sector. We will continue to support the preservation of skills and knowledge that risk disappearing if they are not passed on to future generations.

Just as importantly, we will continue to share what our Fellows learn. Through reports, presentations, forums and ongoing engagement with industry and education, Fellowship knowledge can continue to inform practice long after a Fellowship has ended.

Australia's future prosperity depends on people who are willing to learn, question, explore and bring back new ideas. That has been at the heart of ISS Institute's work for the past 35 years, and it will remain at the heart of our work for the next 35 years.



Treasurers Report



The financial statements have been audited, and an unqualified audit report has been provided by the Institute's auditor, Chaundy & Henry.

ISS Institute recorded a surplus of $1,315 for the year, compared to a surplus of $9,970 in 2025.

Increased revenue was partially offset by an increase in Fellowship expenses, and in addition, abnormal costs contributed to a reduction in the operating surplus for the year.

Retained funds at June 2026 were $373,846 (2025-$372,531), and Current Assets of $973,075 exceeded Current Liabilities of $581,114 by $391,961.

Cash and bank deposits at June 2026 of $959,569 remained comparable to the 2025 figure of $993,619 and our liability to Fellows decreased from $396,200 in 2025 to $346,100.

Operating costs continue to be carefully managed, and the Institute is in a sound financial position to meet its future obligations to Fellows and suppliers.

Adrian.J.Capogreco

Treasurer

Profit and Loss Statement for the year

	2026	2025
	$	$
Revenue	693,974	636,691
Employee expenses	(265,440)	(280,566)
Depreciation and amortisation expense	(792)	(1,907)
Fellowship expenses	(315,400)	(296,500)
Rental Expense	(14,400)	(14,400)
Sundry expenses from ordinary activities	(96,627)	(33,348)
Surplus/(Deficit)	1,315	9,970

Statement of Financial Position as at 30th June 2026

	2026	2025
	$	$
ASSETS		
CURRENT ASSETS		
Cash and Cash equivalents	78,501	85,738
Short term investments - bank deposits	881,068	907,881
Other Assets	13,506	68,286
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS	973,075	1,061,905
NON CURRENT ASSETS		
Proprty, plant and equipment	1,203	1,395
TOTAL NON CURRENT ASSETS	1,203	1,395
TOTAL ASSETS	974,278	1,063,300
LIABILITIES		
CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Trade and other payables	553,312	624,391
Employee provisions (Annual Leave)	17,846	19,332
Lady Gobbo Donation	-	25,000
Current tax liabilities	9,956	5,295
TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES	581,114	674,018
NON CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Employee provisions (LSL)	19,318	16,752
TOTAL NON CURRENT LIABILITIES	19,318	16,752
TOTAL LIABILITIES	600,432	690,770
NET ASSETS	373,846	372,530
EQUITY		
Retained surplus	373,846	372,530
TOTAL EQUITY	**373,846**	**372,530**


International
Specialised
Skills
Institute
35
YEARS
since 1991