

## MEDIA RELEASE

# DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION SKILLS STRATEGY WEBINAR TO FOCUS ON WHAT AUSTRALIA'S TRAINING SYSTEM MUST DO TO ENSURE WE LEAVE NO AUSTRALIAN WORKER BEHIND

### Key points

- A double disruption, the convergence of digital transformation and the global pandemic, has accelerated years of technology adoption in a matter of months.
- The Australian Industry and Skills Committee (AISC) established the Digital Transformation Expert Panel to identify what Australia's VET system needs to do to support Australia's workforce respond to the impact of digital change across the nation's industry.
- A webinar on 21 July 2021 will feature Expert Panel members: Professor Aleksandar Subic, Deputy Vice-Chancellor Science, Engineering, Health and Vice President Digital Innovation at RMIT University; Dr Claire Mason, Principal Research Scientist at CSIRO's Data61; Mark McKenzie, Immediate Past Chair and Director of the Council of Small Business Organisations Australia (COSBOA); and Paul Walsh, CEO of Australian Industry Standards, who will also be facilitating this webinar.

The World Economic Forum calls it 'The Great Reset'. Some refer to it as 'double disruption'. Convergence of the global pandemic and digital transformation have together hastened the adoption of technology at a rate few of us thought possible and has rapidly accelerated the future of work. In a matter of months, businesses have leapt ahead years in their digital journey.

The Digital Transformation Expert Panel has now released 'The Learning Country' - its strategy for what Australia's Vocational Education and Training (VET) system must do to support our nation's workforce through the impact of digital transformation. It emphasises that our training system needs to move quickly given predictions\* that by 2034:

- Automation will displace 2.7m Australian workers
- Technology will supplement 4.5m Australian workers, leading to a 15% capacity uplift to Australian businesses.

With the guiding principle of *'leave no worker behind'*, the Strategy emphasises that while digital transformation is synonymous with technology, it is those inherent human skills which cannot be replicated by an algorithm that will help future-proof the workforce.

To bring this message to a wider audience, this webinar will discuss the key issues for Australia's training system, digital transformation and how it will augment and affect the future of work.

Titled 'Digital transformation – what Australia's VET system must do to ensure we leave no worker behind' the webinar will feature Professor Aleksandar Subic, Deputy Vice-Chancellor Science, Engineering, Health and Vice President Digital Innovation at RMIT University, Dr Claire Mason, Principal Research Scientist at CSIRO's Data61, Mark McKenzie, Immediate Past Chair and Director of the Council of Small Business Organisations Australia (COSBOA) and Paul Walsh, CEO of Australian Industry Standards, who will also be facilitating this webinar.

*“The webinar is a must for anyone in the VET system, regardless of whether you’re a trainer, manager or policy maker. And it’s just as applicable to those in industry. One of the strongest messages we heard throughout the consultation process, was that industry leadership is the critical success factor in ensuring we leave no worker behind”* said Paul Walsh, CEO of Australian Industry Standards, the organisation that’s supported the Panel from its establishment in late 2019.

Please click [here](#) to register for the webinar.

\**Technology Impacts on the Australian Workforce* (2020) Australian Computer Society and Faethm

## About the Digital Transformation Expert Panel



**Professor Aleksandar Subic** is the Deputy Vice-Chancellor Science, Engineering, Health and Vice President Digital Innovation at RMIT University. He is internationally recognised for his research in engineering design and advanced manufacturing, having led numerous global R&D projects in collaboration with industry leading to important translational research outcomes and impact.



**Dr Claire Mason** is a Principal Research Scientist at CSIRO's Data61 which is Australia's leading data innovation group and has a formal mission of creating Australia's data-driven future. Claire's research in CSIRO's Data61 supports agility and resilience in the Australian workforce by capturing novel sources of data about the changing labour market to inform the choices of job seekers, educators and employment services providers.



**Mark McKenzie** is Chair and Director of the Council of Small Business Organisations Australia (COSBOA). Mark is also Chief Executive Officer of the Australasian Convenience and Petroleum Marketers Association (ACAPMA), the national peak body representing the interests of the petroleum distribution and petroleum retail industry.

## About AIS

AIS is focused on future skilling of Australia's workforce. It works in partnership with industry, the VET sector and governments to further Australia's prosperity and competitiveness through lifelong learning of Australians.

AIS transforms careers through the power of skills and draws on its 20 years of world-class, in-house technical expertise and extensive industry networks to deliver solutions for industry. It undertakes research and data analysis to inform intelligence modelling; develops the national occupational standards for a range of critical industries, as well as skills and workforce development solutions – nationally and across the globe.



**Paul Walsh** is the Chief Executive Officer of Australian Industry Standards (AIS). He previously held positions in transport and logistics industry operations both as an employee and as a company owner amassing more than 30 years of experience.

Paul has extensive experience in International Skills Capability Building Projects involving the establishment of skills recognition frameworks and enabling infrastructure across APEC, IORA and Pacific Alliance regions.

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