

Evaluation Results - Australian Flexible Learning Framework

An independent Evaluation of the Australian Flexible Learning Framework is now available. The Framework was established in 2000 to support the vocational education and training (VET) system to meet the rapidly increasing demand for flexible learning and e-learning from industry, enterprise and clients.

The Evaluation shows enormous growth in the up-take of flexible learning and e-learning throughout Australia's VET system over the past five years.

This is just one of the Evaluation's many findings in relation to the Framework, a five year investment by the Australian Government and all States and Territories to increase the take-up of flexible learning and e-learning among training providers and industry and enterprise. Over the past five years, AUD\$15 million per year has been invested in the Framework.

Prior to the establishment of the Framework in 2000, approaches to flexible learning in the Australian VET system were "highly variable", the Evaluation Report states. With the establishment of the Framework in 2000, however, came a vision that, by 2004, 'Australia will be recognised as the global leader in applying new technologies to VET products and services'.

Since 2000, the Framework has directly funded and supported more than 20,000 teaching and training professionals, and developed more than 500 products and resources, which are now being used extensively by VET, industry and enterprise.

The Evaluation recommends that the Australian Government and States and Territories continue their collaborative investment in flexible learning to:

- realise and sustain the value of the investment made under the Australian Flexible Learning Framework in 2000 to 2004
- further build the capability of the entire education and training system for flexible learning to achieve the vision of the recently released national VET strategy for 2004-2010, *Shaping our Future* for a VET system that is fully client driven and provides products and services designed to suit all learners.

The evaluation was carried out in the first half of 2004 and will assist decision-making during the lead-up to a meeting of the Australian National Training Authority's Ministerial Council (ANTA MINCO) in November to decide the future of flexible learning in Australia. A full copy of the evaluation can be downloaded from <http://flexiblelearning.net.au/hottopics.htm#evaluation>.