

APPLIED RESEARCH AND INNOVATION (ARI) PROJECT

STRENGTHENING TAFE-LED APPLIED RESEARCH FOR THE CARE ECONOMY



Our Vision

Establish TAFE as a recognised and integral contributor to Australia's applied research and innovation ecosystem.



Our Mission

Enable a sustainable culture of applied inquiry by providing the structures, partnerships, and resources required for TAFE professionals to conduct and lead meaningful research.

WHAT WE DO



Research Grants

ARI has delivered three competitive funding rounds, supporting seven applied research projects across the Victorian TAFE network. These projects address workforce, training, and service delivery challenges within the care economy.



Capability Building

A suite of initiatives supports practitioners at every stage of their research journey, including workshops, communities of practice, and flexible learning resources such as guides, the **InnovatED** podcast, and a developing **Applied Research Design and Methods** microcredential.

Together, these initiatives are building a connected, capable, and research-active TAFE sector.

Explore the ARI Project

Discover how applied research is shaping the future of the care economy.

www.holmesglen.edu.au/about-us/research/centre-for-applied-research-and-innovation



THE ARI PROJECT ARM 1: RESEARCH GRANTS FUNDING APPLIED RESEARCH FOR REAL-WORLD IMPACT

Seven applied research projects have been selected through a competitive process, demonstrating the depth and diversity of TAFE-led innovation across Victoria.

ROUND 1 – MAJOR PROJECTS (\$250,000)

Kangan Institute

Addressing Skills Gaps in the Care Economy

This project focuses on modernising skills recognition in aged care and disability through the Competency Certification Pathway, aligning workforce capability with industry demand.

Chisholm Institute

Problem-Based Learning in Allied Health

A practice-oriented learning model integrating real clinical scenarios into vocational training, strengthening regional workforce readiness.

Holmesglen Institute

Expanding the Role of Enrolled Nurses

Exploring how enrolled nurses can contribute more effectively to contemporary healthcare systems, supporting workforce sustainability and improved care delivery.

ROUND 2 – EARLY CAREER (\$100,000)

Chisholm Institute

Path2Home

Evaluating and scaling a culturally responsive AOD recovery model to improve access for diverse communities and inform future training approaches.

Melbourne Polytechnic

Artificial Intelligence and Virtual Reality Simulation in Education

Developing an immersive training tool that uses generative AI and virtual reality to support students navigating complex professional interactions.

ROUND 3 – RAPID RESPONSE (\$50,000)

Chisholm Institute

Family Violence Advocacy Pathway

Designing an educational pathway that integrates lived experience with professional practice in family violence advocacy.

South West TAFE

Mobile Skills Lab Impact

A strategic review of a mobile training model to strengthen workforce development practices across regional care sectors.



These projects reflect the applied nature of TAFE-led research, grounded in practice, industry-informed, and focused on tangible outcomes for communities and the workforce.

THE ARI PROJECT ARM 2: CAPABILITY BUILDING SUPPORTING A RESEARCH-ACTIVE TAFE SECTOR

The ARI Project is strengthening research capability across the Victorian TAFE network by creating accessible, flexible pathways into applied research.



This approach is guided by two sector-wide surveys that identified:

- Current levels of research engagement
- Skills and capability gaps
- Barriers to participation
- Preferred formats for professional learning

These insights highlight strong interest in applied research, alongside the need for clearer and more accessible entry points.



Our approach

- Supports all experience levels
- Aligns with practitioner roles
- Provides support in establishing, conducting, or leading applied research projects, and working with industry on TAFE-led and designed projects



What we offer

Skills Training

- Lunch & Learns (lecture-based)
- Workshops (practical, interactive)

Communities of Practice

- Peer collaboration
- Shared problem-solving

Good-practice materials on undertaking applied research projects

- Guides
- InnovatED Podcast
- Developing Applied Research Design and Methods microcredential

OUR IMPACT

Building a sustainable and inclusive research culture across the TAFE sector

THE ARI PROJECT: OUR GOALS

BUILDING CAPABILITY, CONNECTION AND IMPACT

The care economy is rapidly growing. ARI is strengthening TAFE's role in delivering research-informed workforce and industry solutions.

OUR PATH TO IMPACT



1

BUILDING CAPABILITY

Build applied research capability

ARI in action: Grants and capability-building initiatives provide structured opportunities for skill development.

2

STRENGTHENING PARTNERSHIPS

Strengthen relationships across TAFE, industry, and community

ARI in action: Engagement with all Victorian TAFEs and partnerships with organisations such as the Victorian Skills Authority and AVETRA.

3

ENABLING KNOWLEDGE SHARING

Enable dissemination and learning

ARI in action: The ARI website is evolving into a central hub for research guides, webinars, podcasts, and a forthcoming microcredential.

4

BUILDING CULTURE AND INFRASTRUCTURE

Build a sustainable research ecosystem

ARI in action: Communities of Practice, workshops, an emerging applied research journal, and a sector-wide symposium.

5

POSITIONING THE SECTOR

Position TAFE as an integral part within the innovation ecosystem

ARI in action: All funded projects are delivered in partnership with small and medium enterprises, ensuring relevance and real-world impact.

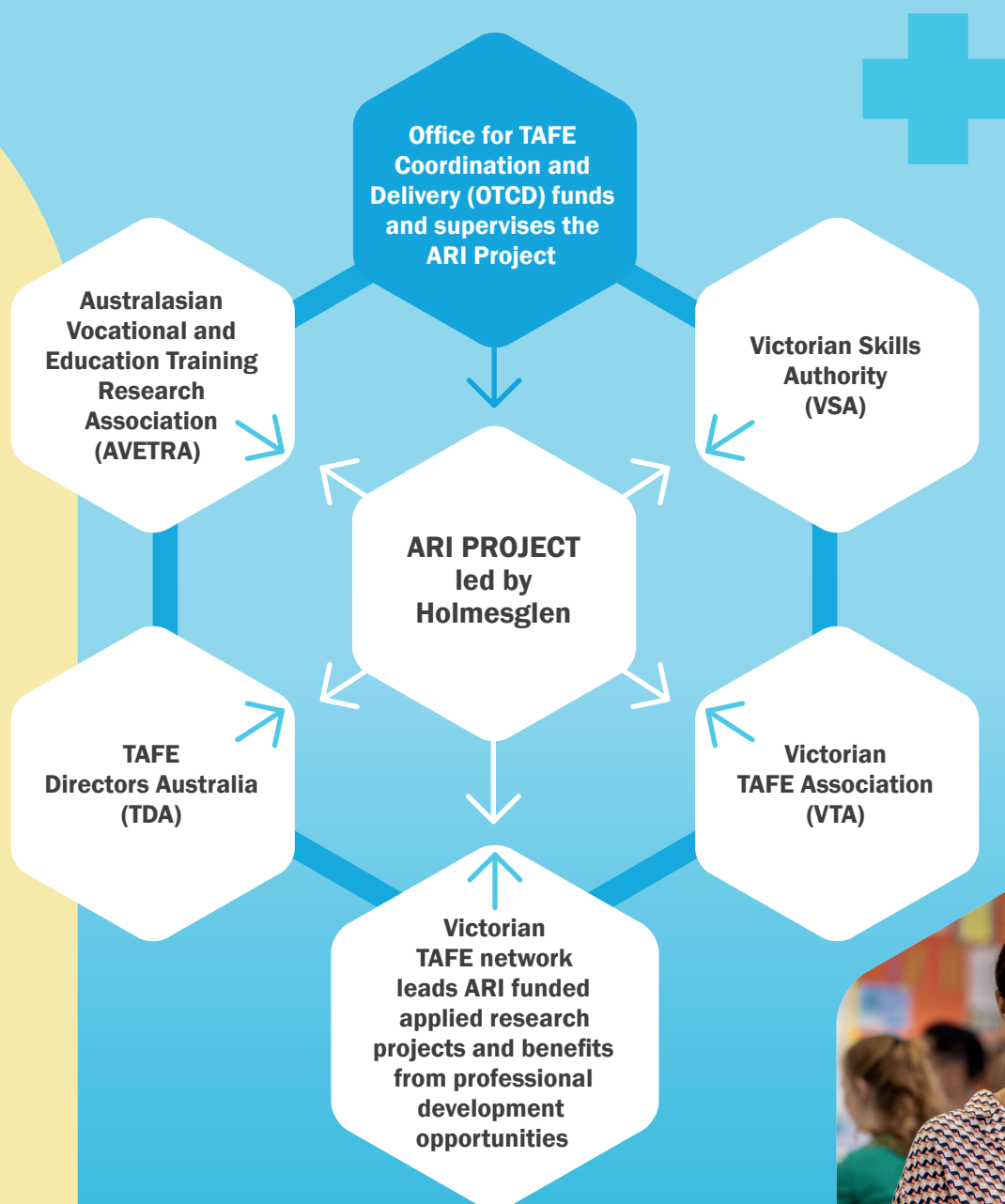
The ARI Project represents a strategic investment in the future of applied research within the TAFE sector by building capability, strengthening partnerships, and enabling lasting impact.



THE ARI PROJECT: ECOSYSTEM

CONNECTED WITH VICTORIAN TAFES, INDUSTRY AND COMMUNITY

The ARI Project is interconnected with every TAFE Institute across Victoria and partners with industry and community organisations.



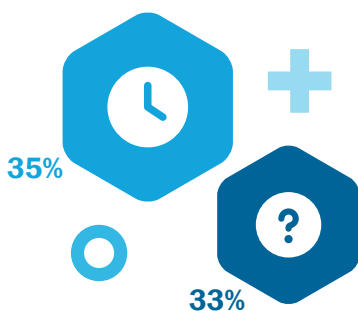
THE ARI PROJECT: SURVEY INSIGHTS INFORMED BY THE VICTORIAN TAFE NETWORK

The ARI Project undertook two separate surveys to investigate current skill levels in applied research to inform its capability-building series.

1

Key Finding Systemic Barriers

Time Release (35%) and **Process Uncertainty (33%)** are the primary hurdles to participate in applied research.

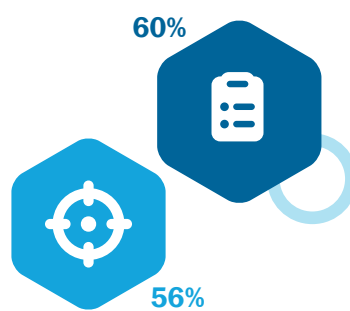
**2**

Key Finding Skill Demand

Writing **Actionable Reports (60%)** and **Data Analysis (56%)** are top priority skill areas.

ARI in action:

Several longer workshops offer hands-on practice in the 2026 Workshop Series.

**3**

Key Finding Mentorship Opportunities

Many respondents are new to research while a quarter possesses over 15 years of experience.

ARI in action:

Communities of practice bring researchers with different experience levels together for a self-sustaining mentorship ecosystem.

