

Holmesglen Centre for Applied Research and Innovation

Research News

April 2026

This report from the Centre for Applied Research and Innovation provides news of research initiatives from the Faculty of Health Science, Community and Social Studies, current research projects undertaken with Building 4.0 CRC, the continuing success of the Institute's bold research initiative in the 'Care Economy', a focus on successes experienced by individual researchers from across the Institute, news of forthcoming conferences, and panel dates for the submission of ethics applications.



The Centre for Applied Research and Innovation: its role and function

The Holmesglen Centre for Applied Research and Innovation acts as an important driver of Institute applied research and works in conjunction with researchers across the Institute. It focuses on outcomes-based research and innovation in partnerships and collaborations with other research organisations, industry, government, and community. Moreover, it provides a supportive environment for Holmesglen researchers across faculties and is an important complement to our teaching and learning programme.

2026: the year ahead

Throughout 2026 the Centre will seek to consolidate Holmesglen's position as a leader in applied research. It will do this by strengthening the institute's research profile in collaboration with researchers across a range of faculties, support the research projects being undertaken by our researchers, and continue working on a range of B4.0 CRC projects, focusing on the completion of current projects and how best to effect technology transfer from this research to Holmesglen Institute's teaching programmes.



Dr Henry Pook,
Director, Centre for Applied Research and Innovation.

Making impact

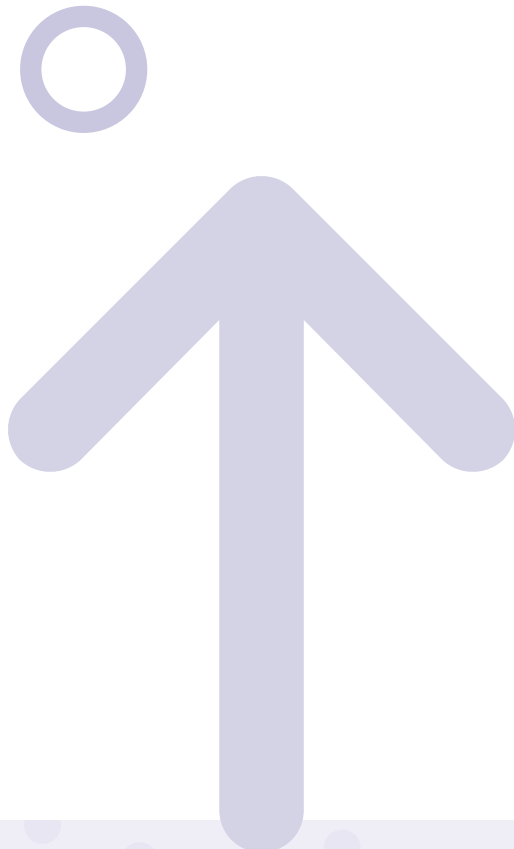
Holmesglen prides itself upon its approach to research. It seeks to develop a research focus that is industry orientated, outcomes focused, and has the potential to contribute to education and training to equip a workforce for an increasingly digitalised world.

In this section of the report, you will find information about the successes of our researchers, our research projects (including news from Dr Lilly Su on the progress of the research focussed Peter Lewinsky Teaching Fellowship program), and research engagement with industry and community.

Our researchers

We are pleased to announce success of three of our researchers:

- Chad Gladovic in having his work published in the peer-reviewed, *Construction Economics and Building*,
- The success of Dr Oyekola in having his research proposal accepted for presentation at the forthcoming *World Sustainable Built Environment Conference 2026*, and
- Candace Van Der Krogt, whose ISSI research report, *Learning from Tradition to Teach Tomorrow: Safeguarding Australian Upholstery Through VET*, is nearly ready for publication.



Cedomir (Chad) Gladovic



Lecturer, Building Degree Programs

Chad's paper introduces the **Responsive Scaffold Model (RSM)**, a pedagogical framework designed to address the soft skills gap in construction management education. It draws on scaffolding theory, cognitive apprenticeship, and experiential learning to propose a structured approach to developing capabilities in graduates (alongside technical knowledge).


Abstract: This conceptual paper introduces the responsive scaffold model (RSM), a theoretically grounded pedagogical and assessment framework designed to enhance soft skills development in construction management education. Using theoretical synthesis methodology, RSM integrates scaffolding theory, cognitive apprenticeship, and experiential learning into a cohesive framework. The model's theoretical foundations are well-established in educational literature, with each component drawing upon substantial research evidence from related contexts.

Although developed within Australian higher education, the paper illustrates RSM's broader applicability across disciplines and international contexts. The model's responsiveness ensures tailored support that adapts to learners' evolving abilities, systematically reducing cognitive overload whilst maintaining academic rigour. Comparisons with problem-based and simulation-based learning highlight RSM's distinctive approach to balancing structured guidance and learner autonomy. Implementation guidelines cover curriculum design, faculty development, and authentic assessment, demonstrating RSM's scalability in large classes and digital settings. By aligning with educational standards and industry expectations, RSM offers a sustainable, learner-centred approach that bridges theoretical knowledge and real-world practice, advancing construction management education to enhance graduate employability and professional readiness. Future research directions are outlined to guide empirical validation of this conceptual framework.

Published in *Construction Economics and Building* (Vol. 26, No. 1, 2026).

The article is open access so anyone in industry or academia can read it freely without a subscription. It is published under the Holmesglen banner, which I hope will contribute to the institute's visibility among built environment educators, researchers, and industry professionals.

Direct link: <https://epress.lib.uts.edu.au/journals/index.php/AJCEB/article/view/9834>



Dr Seun Oyekola
Education Manager,
Centre for Energy
and Infrastructure,
Victorian Tunnelling Centre

Holmesglen Institute's Centre for Applied Research and Innovation (CARI) is proud to announce that an applied research project, **Circular Spoil Valorisation: Leveraging Megaprojects for Scalable Circular Infrastructure**, has been accepted for presentation at the **World Sustainable Built Environment Conference 2026 (WSBE26)** - the premier global forum for sustainability, construction innovation, and built environment transformation.

Led by Dr Seun Oyekola (Education Manager, Centre for Energy and Infrastructure, Victorian Tunnelling Centre), the project positions Melbourne's **North East Link (NEL)** as a living laboratory for circular innovation in major infrastructure. The NEL tunnels are expected to produce **4–6 million m³ of spoil** and **150,000–300,000 tonnes of mixed construction waste**, including reusable timber and polymer based PPE. These material flows, present a significant opportunity for **high value circular solutions** such as geopolymer binders, engineered backfill, and secondary aggregates.

The study exemplifies Holmesglen's distinctive applied research model - **industry driven, solutions focused, and centred on real world problem solving**. It responds directly to the Institute's commitment to advancing sustainability, modernising construction practices, and developing industry ready training products that support workforce capability development, as outlined in the CARI Research Report.

This has a potential for the development of **digital QA/QC provenance systems** and **micro credentials** that translate research outcomes into practical skills for contractors, engineers, regulators, and learners across VET and higher education. These proposed micro credentials support Holmesglen's strategic focus on preparing a future ready workforce equipped to operate in an increasingly digital and circular construction environment.

The acceptance of this paper into WSBE26 not only showcases Holmesglen's growing leadership in applied sustainability research but also highlights the Institute's capacity to partner with industry, government, and the construction ecosystem to address complex challenges. The work contributes directly to **SDG 12: Responsible Consumption and Production**, supporting more resource efficient megaproject delivery nationally and internationally.

This recognition reflects CARI's ongoing mission: **projects that solve real problems, partnerships that create impact, and participation that empowers learners and industry alike**.

(from Dr Seun Oyekola)



Candace
Van Der Krogt

Teacher, Upholstery:
VSA International VET
Practitioner Fellow.

Candace is currently working with the editing team from the **International Specialised Skills Institute (ISSI)** to prepare her report for publication:

*Learning from Tradition to Teach Tomorrow:
Safeguarding Australian Upholstery Through VET
and Equipping the Industry for a Circular Future.*

Candace writes: It (the report) has received final approval and is in the process of being published. This report has been a culmination of 12 months of in-depth research, with all the support of the ISSI and Holmesglen to encourage me throughout. It has been one year since I was awarded the Fellowship, however my chosen subject of research is very close to my heart, and I have spent many years personally working towards this year.

To finally have my report published and to be at the cusp of discovering if my fellow researchers and members of the industry value my findings, has filled me with a nervous excitement! I am very proud of this report, and I thoroughly enjoyed the process. I hope it will be informative and useful to VET teachers across all trades.

Research Training and Application

Dr Lilly Su



Peter Lewinsky Teaching Fellowship 2025: Building a Strong Culture of Applied Research at Holmesglen

The Peter Lewinsky Teaching Fellowship has reached an exciting milestone, with five research capability workshops successfully completed and a vibrant mentoring phase now underway.

Running from November 2025 to March 2026, the workshop series brought together educators from across Holmesglen to strengthen their confidence and capability in applied research. The workshop sessions explored the full research journey, from identifying a practical problem and reviewing the literature, through to designing research methods, developing proposals, and preparing ethics applications.

Workshop topics included:

- From Ideas to Impact: Navigating the Applied Research Process
- Conducting a Literature Review: Finding and Framing the Evidence
- Research Proposals: Planning from Idea to Execution
- Qualitative Research: Gathering and Analysing Data
- Quantitative Research: Survey Research in Applied Contexts
- Research Ethics: Principles and Practice in Applied Research

The workshops created more than new skills. They fostered a connected and supportive research community across disciplines, with staff sharing ideas, collaborating in teams, and learning from one another. Following the first three workshops, each research team presented their emerging ideas to Dr. Henry Pook and Dr. Sam Duncan to receive feedback and guidance before continuing to refine and develop their research projects.

Following the workshop series, participants have continued to receive one-on-one and team mentoring sessions. These mentoring sessions have supported staff to refine their ideas, strengthen their methodologies, and develop their proposals towards ethics approval.

As a result of the Fellowship, four applied research projects have now been developed:

1. **Examining the Influences of GenAI Policies on Students' Relational Trust, Engagement and Satisfaction in TAFE: Case Studies of BHM and BIS at Holmesglen Institute**

Team: Andrew Carruthers, Mark Fielding, Akрати Jain and Rashikala Weerawarna

2. **From Tribe Learning to Survive to Community Learning to Thrive: Supporting Meaningful Generative AI Integration across VET and Higher Education**

Team: Chandi Dabare, Nerada Stern and Alice Low

3. **Factors Influencing the Learning Responses of Nursing Students at Holmesglen**

Team: Jacqueline Kay and Aiwa Zhao

4. **Student Digital Learning Experiences: Case Studies across Tertiary Education**

Researcher: Fahri Benli

These projects demonstrate the breadth of issues being explored through the Fellowship, ranging from student engagement and digital learning to generative AI and nursing education. Importantly, each project is grounded in practical challenges and aims to create meaningful improvements for students, educators and the wider Holmesglen community.

The upcoming Research Showcase expected in June will provide an opportunity for participants to share their proposals, celebrate their achievements, and continue building a culture of applied research at Holmesglen. Through this initiative, the Peter Lewinsky Teaching Fellowship 2025 is not only developing research skills, but also creating a stronger, more connected community of practitioner-researchers committed to making a difference.

Health and Care Research

New projects

The Triple Cliff: Examining Postpartum Declines in Informal, Professional, and Community Support



Dr Chris Kilby in collaboration with the Cairnmiller Institute

This study aims to determine whether postpartum women experience a 'triple cliff', a concurrent decline in (1) informal social support, (2) professional/healthcare support, and (3) community connection during the postpartum period. In collaboration with Primary and Community Care, this project will describe the timing and perceived magnitude of change across these domains, explore how the domains interact as a connected support system, and identify barriers and

enabling factors that influence women's ability to access and sustain support. Findings will be used to generate practical recommendations for strengthening integrated postpartum pathways that bridge clinical services, family/peer networks, and community-based supports (including social prescribing options) to reduce isolation and improve maternal wellbeing.

Lived Experience of Women during Perimenopause: Influence on Well-being and Ongoing Symptom Management

Dr Chris Kilby in collaboration with the Cairnmiller Institute

This qualitative study, in collaboration with CSIRO Behavioural Sciences and the Cairnmillar Institute, explores how women experience and navigate the management and decision-making related to perimenopausal symptoms and treatments within the Australian context, including their engagement with medical and alternative support systems, and how these experiences affect their overall wellbeing. The qualitative methodology has been adopted to bridge the gap between biomedical perspectives and lived experience. Findings of this study are expected to inform and promote patient-centred, inclusive, and sustainable models of care, guide policy reforms, and strength community-based resources.

Exploring Offending Behaviour in Care Leavers

Dr Chris Kilby in collaboration with the Cairnmiller Institute

Children in out-of-home care are over-represented in the youth justice system. This body of work, in collaboration with the Cairnmillar Institute, comprises 3 separate studies that aim to identify ways that the Australian out-of-home care system can be improved to reduce the risk of unlawful behaviour in those that grew up in the system (and, in turn, exposure to the justice system). Across the 3 studies, this project aims to identify pathways to unlawful behaviour and modifiable factors within out-of-home care.

Study 1 of 3: Mapping the Impact of Policy on Out-Of-Home Care, Youth Residential Care, and Youth Justice System Exposure in Australia: A Longitudinal Policy Analysis using Administrative Data

The objective of the proposed study is to quantify the degree to which key political and legislative developments have influenced rates and configurations of different forms of out-of-home care and youth justice system exposure over time. This project uses publicly available historical service use data for out-of-home care and the youth justice system as well as details of key policies and legislative action that targets these sectors.

Study 2 of 3: "I believe they could have done better": A Retrospective Exploration of Pathways to Unlawful Behaviour Among Adults Placed in Youth Residential Care in Australia

This study draws on the voices and perceptions of those who have themselves resided in youth residential care in Australia to explore the influence of positive and negative childhood experiences, including those in youth residential care, on subsequent positive and negative life trajectories, including but not limited to involvement in unlawful behaviour. This study is using a qualitative design underpinned by an interpretivist paradigm to explore care leavers' subjective life stories, including the emergence or absence of unlawful behaviour.

Study 3 of 3: Psychosocial Interventions for Reducing Externalising Behaviour in Youth in Out-of-Home Care: A Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis

This systematic review and meta-analysis has three objectives: (1) to systematically identify and synthesise published Randomised Controlled Trials evaluating psychosocial interventions aimed at reducing externalising behaviours (a behavioural precursor to exposure to the Justice System) in out-of-home care populations; (2) to assess whether intervention effects vary according to intervention modality (e.g., behavioural, cognitive-behavioural, family-based, multimodal); and (3) to explore whether participant characteristics, including age and gender, moderate intervention outcomes.

Ongoing projects

Faculty of Health Science, Community and Social Studies

Dr Harrison Burgin
Applied Research Fellow



The HSCSS research community has several ongoing projects that have been introduced in previous issues, including:

- Exploring enrolled nurse scope of practice – how can the role of enrolled nurses better contribute to the nursing workforce?
- Evaluating educational escape rooms – exploring how these can be used as experiential learning to promote soft skills such as problem solving
- Investigating use of forum theatres – an iterative role-playing technique – to build empathy and communication skills in nursing students
- Exploring the longitudinal effects of intraprofessional learning – how learning about, from and with those within the same profession but at different qualification levels can improve the understanding of clinical scope of practice for nursing students.

Care Economy Collaborative Research Centre (CRC)

Dr Harrison Burgin

Holmesglen is one of the Core Partners of the [Care Economy Collaborative Research Centre \(CRC\)](#).

The Care Economy CRC has three key areas to focus on:

- Technology Solutions
- Data Innovation, and
- Workforce Innovation.

Holmesglen, as a key partner, can propose areas to conduct research in collaboration with the CRC and their research partners.

Holmesglen's Faculty of HSCSS is currently proposing an exciting project into the **Unintended consequences of legislated 'care minutes' in the aged care sector**.

Within Australian nursing, there are two categories, enrolled nurses (completed a Diploma of Nursing) and registered nurses (completed a Bachelor of Nursing). Within the aged care setting there are also unregulated worker, such as personal care assistants, leisure and health staff, lifestyle teams, kitchen staff, etc. As an outcome of the royal commission into aged care, one of the changes was to introduce 'care minutes'.

Care minutes are the legislated number of minutes of direct care each resident must receive each day. 215 minutes of direct care must be provided to each resident, each day, and 44 of those minutes of care must be provided by a registered nurse. Enrolled nurses are not considered within care minutes. After a large amount of advocacy, the care provided by enrolled nurses is now recognised, and may count towards 10% of the registered nurse minutes. This may have unintended consequences on the enrolled nurse workforce, as aged care providers may choose to employ registered nurses instead of enrolled nurses as a result of this change.

Even though these care minutes are a relatively new concept, we are already seeing an impact – many Diploma of Nursing providers are reporting increased difficulties in securing placements in aged care. This may suggest that aged care providers are not considering enrolled nurses to be part of their future workforce. In a healthcare system that is project a shortfall of 70,000 nurses by 2035, this poses a large issue.

This project will explore the unintended consequences of the care minutes on enrolled nurses, workforce planning and Diploma of Nursing enrolments and placements. This project may expand and also include clinical indicators and resident experience.

This collaboration with Latrobe University, facilitated through the Care Economy CRC, will provide opportunities for ongoing collaboration, with one project currently being proposed, that would involve supervision of a PhD student and partnership on a 5-year project. We look forward to providing updates as this partnership develops.

For any questions about the Health Science, Community and Social Studies research, please contact Harrison Burgin: harrison.burgin@holmesglen.edu.au



Care Economy
CRC

Research Update: 2025-2026

Highlights and Upcoming Workshops

As we enter the second quarter of 2026, the Applied Research Innovation (ARI) project continues to gain significant momentum.

Since our launch in May 2025, our communication reach has nearly quadrupled, with 193 staff members now subscribed to our updates.

More importantly, this growth represents a broad state-wide influence, with active engagement across 24 unique TAFEs and partner organisations.

Investment in Research: Grant Round Updates

Our funding streams have transitioned from the launch phase to active implementation, with projects reaching critical milestones:

- **Round 1 (\$250k)**
3 x Inaugural teams are currently conducting extensive fieldwork and progressing through the ethics approval process. This phase represents the primary data collection and research activity period.
- **Round 2 (\$100k)**
2 x projects are dedicated to supporting Early Career Researchers, a strategic initiative designed to strengthen long-term research capability within the TAFE sector.
- **Round 3 (\$50k)**
This round focuses on rapid-response projects bridging vocational and higher education pathways. Applications have now closed, and the review process is underway. We anticipate announcing the successful awardees shortly.

Join the Community of Practice

We are also continuing to grow our Community of Practice. If you are interested in connecting with peers, sharing experiences, and workshoping the key issues, and passions from your industry and community-engaged projects, we invite you to join us on the following dates.

2026 CoP Meeting Dates (Online 1pm – 3 pm):

- 30 April • 23 July • 15 October • 10 December
- 11 June • 3 September • 26 November *End of year reflection*

Contact appliedresearch@holmesglen.edu.au to receive the meeting link.

Capability Building and Resources

We remain committed to formalising and demystifying applied research by providing staff with professional recognition for their innovations.

- **InnovatED Podcast:** Launching April 2026, this series highlights TAFE researchers to illustrate how industry-engaged projects constitute high-impact applied research.
- **Applied Research Microcredential (In Development):** We are currently developing a five-module guide, Applied Research for Victorian TAFE Professionals. This program will enable staff to formalise their innovative practices and enhance leadership capacity.
- **ARI Digital Hub:** Our [new website](#) is now live and will serve as the central repository for project updates and program information. We look forward to expanding the hub with further resources and guidelines as the project progresses.

Looking Ahead: Autumn Workshops

The Autumn workshop series focuses on fieldwork methodologies and technical ethics requirements.

Upcoming Sessions:

- Ethical Considerations for Surveys in Research
- Conducting Interviews and Focus Groups
- Writing for Impact and Clarity

Access registration links and the comprehensive 2026 calendar via our new website: [Workshops and Events](#).

Take our Survey: Shaping Applied Research Development in Victorian TAFEs

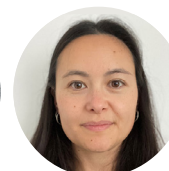
We require your insights to tailor our workshops to your specific applied research capability needs. Share with us your preferred learning formats, peer support options and level of research experience.



<https://holmesglen.syd1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV-cYBwfPKK02R9iVU>

Or scan the code.

Survey closes
30 April 2026
Deniz Akin
Theresa Kim



Co-Design an Ethics Toolkit

The first Co-Design Ethics Roundtable on **3 June 2026** provides a strategic platform for the VET sector to transform high-level ethical frameworks into practical, staff-led documentation tailored for the unique TAFE environment. We encourage stakeholders to participate in developing agile, boots-on-the-ground resources that ensure applied research remains ethically defensible and operationally efficient for industry-aligned projects.

Building 4.0 CRC

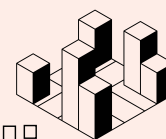
Building 4.0 CRC, established 1 July 2020, involves a partnership between Holmesglen and an industry-university based consortium to create, through research, an innovation 'ecosystem' in building construction.

Holmesglen has been working with university researchers and its partner organisations to develop research programs that will support the development of training programs in the use of new technologies (including digital technologies); innovations to work processes; and policy and regulations improvement.

The CRC is in its penultimate year and is due to finish in the second quarter of 2027.

A focus on skills, training and education

These projects have, among other aims, research outputs to inform education and training in emerging building technologies. They have the potential to contribute subject content for degree level studies, inform subject knowledge needed for educators in paraprofessional programmes (e.g., diploma level studies), and contribute to the foundations of broad-based educative programmes for lecturers and VET educators about the role of new and emerging technologies in the industry (e.g., smart contracts, RPAS, AR/VR, etc.).



building
4.0 crc

What it means for VET

Participation in this research partnership enables the TAFE Institute, along with industry, government, and university research partners, to work co-operatively on the development of new technologies and training programmes to modernise the building construction sector.

Research Updates

Project #49 Completed

Implications of Industry 4.0 technologies on Work Practices

The Project

The project aimed to understand the implications of emerging technologies on work practices, workforce training and working conditions in the building and construction industry.

It identified the benefits and challenges of emerging technologies, the impacts of these technologies on workplace practices and working conditions, the requirements for the choice and design of appropriate workplace technologies and the requirements for future workforce training.

A draft section of the report reads:

This report has brought forward how the successful adoption of Industry 4.0 technologies in the Australian building and construction (B&C) industry depends not both technical feasibility, commercial viability, and importantly **desirability**. In particular our research focused on desirable futures for the application of Industry 4.0 technologies. Workers, educators, regulators, and industry leaders across the B&C industry consistently emphasised that technology must support safer, more satisfying, and high-quality work if it is to be embraced at scale. Participants shared a strong desire for tools that reduce administrative burden, enhance coordination, strengthen embodied learning, and preserve the craft, autonomy, and pride that define much of the industry's identity. At the same time, they raised concerns about fragmentation, deskilling, loss of human connection, and inadequate system-wide training pathways.

Project #55 In Progress

Financing the construction industry-smart finance and smart contracts

The Project

Background: Financing and contracting issues are an acute problem in the building construction industry that blockchain technology (such as 'smart contracts') may be able to resolve.

The Problem

Financing and contracting issues are an acute problem in the construction industry. They have led to multiple insolvencies in recent years, with a high risk of a domino effect of insolvency spreading throughout the industry.

Additionally, the construction industry is one defined by its adversarial relationships and heavy, and often ineffectual, contractual burdens. Long supply chains, large numbers of (sub) contractors and the prevalence of small and medium enterprises among these sub-contractors create a particularly critical financing problem in the construction industry.

As construction projects are long in duration and the final payment for the finished product usually takes place at delivery, construction firms require external financing during the life of the project. Small contractors, frequently employed in construction, have limited access to bank or public debt. Common use of trade credit by the main contractors means that many small firms routinely do not get paid for their work until 45 or 60 days after issuing an invoice and often get their payment delayed well after this period.

As most small firms' survival critically depends on receiving their cash flows on time, extensive use of trade credit and limits to external financing greatly contribute to the high failure rate of small and medium enterprises in the construction industry.

Project #55

In Progress

How will this technology benefit builders and support Holmesglen's programs?

The builder and smart contracts: what it means for builders

Builders uses a smart contract payment platform to automate the contract payments. This means that accounts are created where the deposit and milestone payments are stored, and automatically associated with sub-contractor invoices once approved. This ensures that subcontracts are paid immediately. It also provides increased trust and transparency for a loan agency to provide a much lower cost bridging loan, and/or for the bank/owner to approve the earlier release of funds for subcontractors even before a traditional milestone payment would be triggered.

Education and Training

The development of this new technology may be of particular interest to Holmesglen as it adjusts to the demands of educating and training building professionals and trades people (who may become subcontractors) to meet the demands of the 'digital age'. This may involve facilitating an understanding of this blockchain technology and its potential use of smart contracts to automate the payment of progress claims once they have been certified for payment.

Smart contracts are essentially self-executing agreements with the terms directly written into code. For example, they may automatically release payments when milestones are met/verified and has the capacity to reduce payment disputes and provide timely compensation without the need for intermediaries and removes the need for intermediaries.

The project is currently exploring case studies of the construction industry to determine the future of smart contracts and blockchain technology to address concerns about finance and supply chain transparency. This will involve a detailed explore the use of smart contracts to facilitate faster and more reliable payments and how a digital twin of the supply chain can allow for more transparent and trustworthy systems.

Industry and Research Partners with Holmesglen



Queensland University of Technology (QUT)



Master Builders Association Victoria



Building and Plumbing Commission (BPC)



PT Blink



Paid.Inc

Project #58

In Progress

B4.0CRC Shared Interest Project Programme:

The Retrofit Housing Atlas: Adaptive Reuse of Housing in Australia.

A Shared Interest Project (SIP) is a Building 4.0 CRC (the CRC) Research Project that focuses on an issue of collective concern to which no single industry or research partner can or should tackle single-handedly and allows the CRC to diversify its research profile with projects that fill in the gaps other research does not cover.

SIPs can be taken from inception to active project status quickly; and importantly, these projects complement traditional CRC projects by focusing upon social, cultural, regulatory, or systemic matters and complex problems that are best addressed through the collective agency of the CRC consortium.

SIPs align directly with the CRC's four meta-themes

- 1) People, Practices and Culture
- 2) Sustainability
- 3) Digitalisation, and
- 4) Industrialisation.

Overview

The Retrofit Housing Catalogue identifies common yet overlooked housing stock across Australia, which has the potential to deliver retrofit strategies at scale.

A retrofit approach can increase density and diversity, protect and enhance greening, and reduce the carbon emissions that are embedded in constructing new housing. Further, in the midst of Australia's housing crisis, a retrofit approach has potential to supplement the ambitious targets set by state and federal bodies for new dwellings, urban greening and carbon reduction.

Developing *The Retrofit Housing Catalogue* unlocks the adaptive potential of national existing housing stock. The Atlas achieves this by identifying, documenting and mapping the types and occurrence of common housing stock (1940s-2010s) across Australia.

While ubiquitous, such common housing types are not optimised for performance, liveability or spatial potential. The Atlas outlines systematic retrofit strategies for each type that would improve housing stock at scale and quantifies the potential uplift of implementing these adaptations.





Project #80 In Progress

Insolvency in Construction

The project had a small surplus of research funds, and it was agreed by the research partners that the surplus be spent on dissemination material:

Additional deliverables to utilise remaining funds incorporating:

- An accessible piece on the impact of construction insolvencies on the broader economy and social outcomes.
- A one-page traffic-light checklist identifying main points of failure;
- First-step self-help guidance for businesses and subcontractors.
- Plain-English overview (not legal advice) summarising key issues and signposting where to get more information and help.

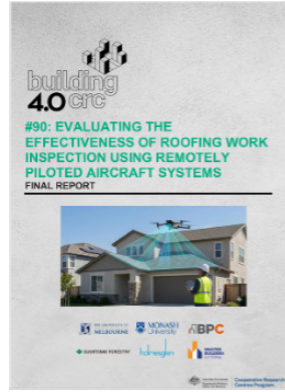
Below are DRAFTS of briefs designed to alert builders, including apprentices and diploma level learners in the course of their training programmes, of insolvency risks.



Project #90 Completed

Evaluation of the effectiveness of roofing work inspection using Remotely Piloted Aircraft Systems (RPAS).

The Project has been completed and the final report has been prepared.



This aim of this project was to evaluate the thoroughness, accuracy, and effectiveness of using RPAS and 3D visualisation techniques for inspection of roofing work, analyse the costs and benefits, and map the regulatory landscape for wider implementation of RPAS assisted inspections.



The RPAS in full flight

Among its many conclusions and recommendations (see pp 118-121 of the final report), relates to the elements of roofing work that can and cannot be accurately inspected using RPAS.

(the Report)... suggest(s) that all elements of roofing work which are visually inspected, including roof coverage, materials, water ponding, and debris can be accurately inspected using RPAS. Roofing elements that require measurement such as roof pitch and gutter gradient can be remotely inspected using RPAS imagery after post processing ... Roofing elements that are not directly visible or require physical probing, such as insulations and sarking, cannot be inspected using RPAS.

Of particular interest to Holmesglen are the case studies, including the one undertaken at Holmesglen with the assistance of Craig Gambetta and Matthew Berriman from Building and Construction Trades (see Research News, August-October 2025). Other assistance and technical advice during the project and on-site as part of a case study was provided by Phil Ronan and Robert Woolley from Plumbing and Mechanical Services.

Project #111 In Progress

Modern methods of construction (MMC) and VET: a Holmesglen initiated project to meet the training challenges of the digital era.

Recognising the need for a more comprehensive and integrated VET approach to support the adoption of diverse methods of construction (MMC) practices, as revealed by the limited scope of current qualifications, this project aims to develop a purpose-driven VET qualifications system/training framework for the construction industry and supply chain, including a wide range of MMC approaches (e.g., offsite/prefab/modular construction/advanced building materials).

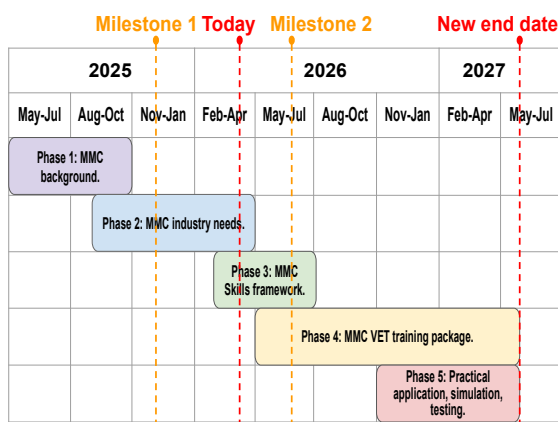
It also will research the practicality of a 'simulation-based training centre' that would provide an interactive means of training, applying, and practising stages in the planning, design, and construction skills of MMC.

There are five phases in the project structure:

- Phase 1 MMC international and national background;
- Phase 2 MMC Industry skills and training needs;
- Phase 3 MMC Competency framework development;
- Phase 4 MMC-related VET qualification structure; and
- Phase 5 practical application and live testing of MMC VET Resources.

Project status overview

Phases completed or in progress (see below)



Project #117 In Progress

Graduate Certificate in Sustainable Building

Another Holmesglen Research Initiative

This project directly responds to the need for a workforce equipped with essential knowledge, skills, and capabilities to navigate and build resilience in a climate-affected world through targeted education and training. The aim is to develop a Graduate Certificate in Sustainable Building.

This post-graduate qualification will provide a high-level, targeted course of study, offering advanced knowledge and practical application skills crucial for accelerating Australia's transition towards low-carbon, circular, and more sustainable building practices.

The research draws upon a number of CRC projects such as CRC#48: Building the Future-the Circular Economy and CRC#58: The Retrofit Housing Atlas. It is also informed by the content areas related to subjects developed as part of CRC#66: Future of Construction Education

Timeline

Progress Review (11/02/2026)

Phase	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul
1. Background	Background review CRC projects, existing courses and CPD developed by partners								
2. Industry needs	Market review of educational programs		Review of current industry job offers			Analysis & triangulation			
			Exploratory 'go-along' interviews						
3. Course development documents			Documents for the course development process—iterative development & feedback						

The Course Learning Outcomes and documents required for the courses committee are currently being prepared. These are:

- Course Competitor Analysis
- Course Proposal Form (Higher Education)
- Draft Program Structure



Conferences and Related News

Note: Staff should consult with their department head, co-ordinator or manager prior to registering for conferences. Please note that the Centre for Applied Research and Innovation does not fund registrations.

World Sustainable Built Environment Conference 2026



This conference will explore innovative solutions for a sustainable future, pushing beyond existing frameworks to consider future challenges and opportunities and contribute to the next iteration of the Sustainable Development Goals.

Holmesglen is well represented on the Industry Stakeholders Collaborative Meeting (Dr Henry Pook) and the review process for presentation abstracts (Dr Seun Oyekola and Dr Henry Pook).

Holmesglen Institute's Centre for Applied Research & Innovation (CARI) is proud to announce that an applied research project, Circular Spoil Valorisation: Leveraging Megaprojects for Scalable Circular Infrastructure, has been accepted for presentation at the **World Sustainable Built Environment Conference 2026 (WSBE26)** – the premier global forum for sustainability, construction innovation, and built environment transformation.

Registration

For details and prices for conference registrations see conference website: <https://www.wsbe26.org>

Registration Includes:

- Access to full conference program from Wednesday 10 June - Friday 12 June 2026
- Opportunity to add on a pre-conference Site Visit or Workshop taking place on Friday 12 June (some may incur a small fee)
- Conference Catering - Morning Tea, Lunch and Afternoon Tea
- Access to the Welcome Function on Wednesday 10 June
- Opportunity to purchase a ticket to the Conference Dinner on Thursday 11 June

AVETRA Conference 23-24 April 2026

This international conference provides a premier forum for researchers, practitioners, policymakers, and industry partners to engage with critical questions facing vocational education and training (VET) in an era of unprecedented transformation.

The conference theme, "Schisms and Continuums: Understanding Sustainability, Change and Identity in Vocational Education," invites examination of the tensions, contradictions, and connections that characterise contemporary VET systems globally. As vocational education navigates between tradition and innovation, local needs and global pressures, economic imperatives and social justice commitments, this conference seeks to illuminate both the fractures and meanings that define our field.

For details see conference website: <https://avetra.org.au>

AVETRA Research Today Call For Papers - May 2026

Calling all AVETRA members, VET researchers and stakeholders! Share your research with your colleagues and peers through AVETRA's Research Today magazine.

AVETRA is Australasia's only national, independent association of researchers in vocational education and training (VET). Amongst the range of services AVETRA offers, we produce VET research publications including Research Today – an electronic magazine that shares and celebrates VET practitioner research. This may be research about VET or research and innovation with and for VET's industry and community partners.

If you or your colleagues would like to contribute to the magazine, then please contact AVETRA at avetra@avetra.org.au

Guidelines

- Articles should be of around 1000-1500 words and on topics of interest to AVETRA members and the wider VET community (including researchers, academics, VET practitioners and other stakeholders).
- Articles on VET practitioner-led and applied research are especially welcome.
- Articles should include the aims of the research, how information was collected, and key findings.
- If you refer to academic literature, your piece should include the references and a reference list.
- If you refer to information owned by your industry or community partner, it is vital that the partner has granted permission for you to submit your article.
- The addition of diagrams or a picture is also welcome.

Contributions are due by Friday 8 May 2026

News from International Specialised Skills Institute

International VET Practitioner Fellowships

Applications for Round Two open on the 23rd March 2026, and **close on the 24th May 2026**.

The Victorian Skills Authority (VSA) in partnership with the International Specialised Skills Institute (ISS Institute) are offering ten (10) International VET Practitioner Fellowships in 2026 valued at \$13,000 each. The Fellowship is a yearlong program - travel and completion of report is within one year.

For more details: <https://www.issinstitute.org.au/vetinternationalpractitionerfellowship>

SEE the latest ISSI Newsletter. <https://issinstitute.org.au>

TDA Convention 2026 5-7 May, Brisbane

The full program for TDA Convention 2026 – The Power of TAFE is now available online.

With more than 100 speakers across plenary and breakout sessions, this year's TDA Convention brings together one of the most substantial programs in the sector.

The Hon Andrew Giles MP, Minister for Skills and Training, will deliver the Welcome Address, followed by a panel discussion on harmonisation, with Professor Barney Glover AO, Commissioner of Jobs and Skills Australia and Chief Commissioner of Interim ATEC, bringing a national reform perspective.

Keynote speakers include Pari Johnston (Colleges and Institutes Canada), Professor Steven Dhondt (TNO and KU Leuven) and John King (NCVER) discussing topics as diverse and relevant as the role of TAFE in leading innovation and applied research, Industry 5.0, future workforce needs, and the opportunities and challenges associated with 'earn and learn' educational pathways.

A comprehensive program of concurrent breakout sessions will address diverse topics including national reform, workforce priorities, TAFE Centres of Excellence, innovation in delivery, and digital transformation and leadership.

View the full program and secure your place at TDA Convention 2026 via the Convention website: <https://tda.edu.au/tda-convention-2026/>

Update on NCVER's 'No Frills' Conference

*NCVER (as reported previously).
From NCVER News edition #620, 14 January 2026*

As NCVER moves through a period of renewal, we will be pausing the annual National Vocational Education and Training (VET) Research Conference 'No Frills' in 2026.

This pause gives us the opportunity to carefully reconsider whether a large-scale conference best supports our strategy and member expectations. We will draw on the feedback shared by past participants and consider if other engagement approaches may better align with our renewed direction.

We recognise this may be disappointing to those who have valued the conference over many years, particularly within the VET research community.

We will share further updates as our thinking develops. Information about previous 'No Frills' conferences remains available here.

NCVER remains committed to supporting the research sector with our [research publications](#) and the [VOCEDplus](#) database, which now contains over 101,700 items, with more than 60,000 accessible online.

HERDSA Annual Conference 6-9 July 2026

National University of Singapore

To preview the 2026 Conference:
<https://conference.herdsa.org.au/2026/>

HERDSA has announced that the 2026 conference will be jointly organised by six Singapore Institutes of Higher Learning and two Australian universities with campuses in Singapore. The conference will be hosted at the stunning University Town, National University of Singapore – a dynamic space where ideas flourish, innovations emerge and community thrives.

In a time when higher education is evolving faster than ever, this year's theme – **Re-envisioning Higher Education for Tomorrow's Learners** – invites educators, leaders, and policymakers to come together to explore, question, and reimagine the future of learning. Through critical reflection on current teaching practices and bold exploration of innovative pedagogies, we'll shape a path forward that meets the needs of a rapidly changing world.

Please see the HERDSA website for the Scholarships and Conference Grants and Prizes on offer.

VET National Teaching and Learning Conference

**SAVE THE DATES:
Thursday 13 and Friday 14 August 2026
Melbourne Convention & Exhibition Centre (MCEC)**

Early Bird Ticket: Closes 15 May 2026

VELG

2026 National VET Conference: Forging a Trusted Future

The 2026 National VET Conference will be delivered over two days on 29 and 30 October 2026 at the Gold Coast Convention and Exhibition Centre.
See: <https://www.velgtraining.com/nvc>

ASCILITE 2026 Conference 29 Nov – 3 Dec 2026

Rydges Hotel, South Bank, Brisbane

Keep up to date on the conference website:
<https://2026conference.ascilite.org/>

**Other conferences will be posted
once dates and locations are confirmed.**



Contact us

For business and the community sector we are on hand to examine the potential benefits of partnering with Holmesglen and to evaluate how this would assist in improving the competitiveness, productivity, efficiencies, and/or commercial outcomes of your company or organisation.

If you are keen to know more about Holmesglen research and how it can help your business, education provider or community organisation please contact:

Dr Henry Pook, Director
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B3720426 Applied Research Innovation News April 2026

Research ethics and compliance: Information for researchers

- When is ethics approval needed?
- Is ethics approval always needed?
- How do I obtain ethics approval?
- Where do I obtain human ethics application forms?
- Preparing a human research ethics application: general pointers

See webpage for answers to these questions: [Information for researchers](#)

Panel Dates For 2026

Researchers are encouraged to submit applications two weeks prior to the meeting dates scheduled below:

- **Thursday 11 June**
- **Thursday 13 August**
- **Thursday 15 October**
- **Thursday 3 December**

If you are keen to know more, please contact:
The Centre for Applied Research and Innovation
E: appliedresearch@holmesglen.edu.au



In the spirit of reconciliation, Holmesglen recognises and celebrates the Traditional Owners of the lands throughout Victoria and beyond on which we educate and train. We pay our respects to Elders past and present and acknowledge our emerging leaders.