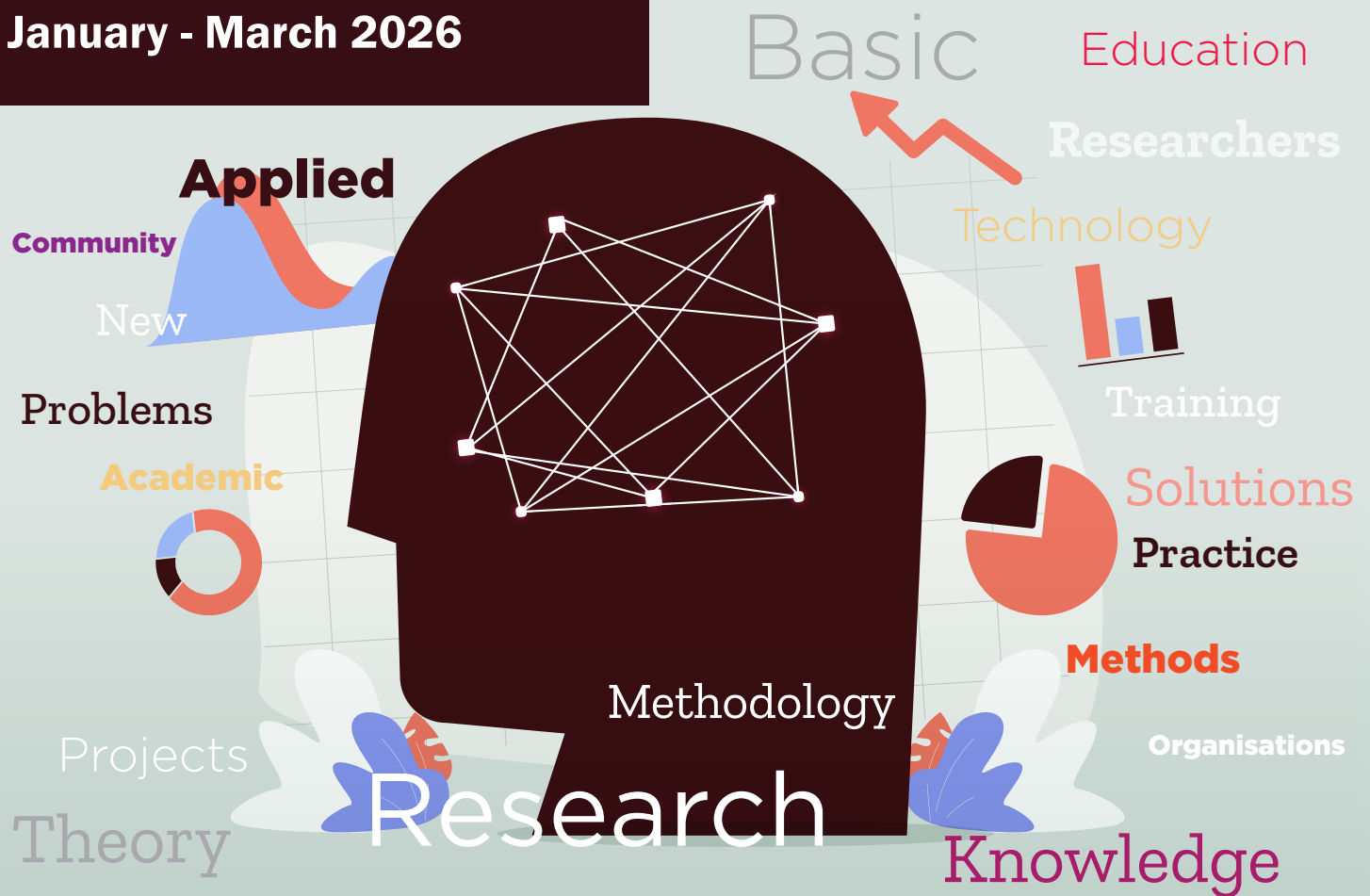


# ResearchNews

January - March 2026



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

The Centre acts as an important driver of Institute applied research and works in conjunction with researchers across the Institute and is an important complement to our teaching and learning programme.

In 2026, the Centre seeks to strengthen the institute's research profile and to consolidate Holmesglen's position as a leader in applied research. To do this, our research programme requires the broadening of the research paradigm, framing a clear alternative in the research 'ecosystem' in such a way that not only focuses on outcomes-based research and innovations in partnerships and collaborations with other research organisations, industry, government, and community, but also supports basic research as an integral component of the research effort.

## The path ahead: 2026

This report from the Centre for Applied Research and Innovation ('The Centre') provides news of Faculty of Health Science, Community and Social Studies research initiatives (including a forthcoming publication of research in the Journal of Applied Research in Disability Studies), projects undertaken with Building 4.0 CRC, the progress of what is the very successful 'Care Economy' initiative, a focus on the researcher, dates of ethics committee information, and news of forthcoming conferences.



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

## Research Initiatives

### Faculty of Health Science, Community and Social Science

#### Background

Integrated Practical Placement (IPP) programmes provide students with intellectual disability an opportunity to undertake extended work placement while concurrently studying a course. These programmes showed improved (2–3 folds) employment outcomes compared to non-integrated programmes, which highlighted the need to expand these offerings.

#### Method

This study evaluates a range of IPP programmes, exploring variations, their impact and understanding experiences of the participants and exploring the impact of workplace training as a non-traditional educational experience.

#### Results

Findings show 70%–100% of students enrolled in an IPP programme that delivered a sustained and integrated model of work placement either gained employment or entered further study, and that 100% of businesses and employees who participated in hosting a student for placement returned to the programme again and are open to employing people with disability.

#### Conclusion

This highlighted how new education models can improve learning for people with intellectual disability and should be utilised broadly.

#### Summary

- Integrated Practical Placement (IPP) programmes significantly improve outcomes for young adults with intellectual disabilities, with up to 100% of participants gaining employment or entering further study in some programmes.
- Students benefit beyond employment, reporting increased confidence, social skills and a sense of belonging.
- Employers and educators also benefit, with workplaces becoming more inclusive and educators witnessing meaningful student growth.
- This study provides strong evidence that sustained, integrated work placements are more effective than short-term or episodic models, challenging previous assumptions about necessary conditions.



ORIGINAL ARTICLE

#### Evaluating the Impact of Integrated Practical Placement Programmes on Students With Intellectual Disabilities

Harrison Burgin ✉ Jan Hooper Alyssa Forbes-Nicholson Gabrielle Koutoukidis

First published: 29 January 2026 | <https://doi.org/10.1111/jar.70184> | [VIEW METRICS](#)

## Grant funding success

Holmesglen's Faculty of Health Science, Community and Social Studies received a \$250,000 grant towards the end of 2025.

This will fund, entitled "From Underutilised to Indispensable: Expanding the Role of the Enrolled Nurse to Meet Modern Workforce Demands" will explore how we can better use enrolled nurses within the workplace to contribute to the growing demands of healthcare.

Currently, enrolled nurses make up approximately 20% of the nursing workforce and often do not practice to the full extent of tasks that they were trained and educated to perform. This may contribute to enrolled nurses leaving the workforce to pursue higher qualifications or alternative employment. This project will combine literature reviews, policy reviews, education and modelling, as well as a pilot model of enrolled nurses practicing to their full scope of practice at clinical wards with our industry partner, St Vincents Private Hospital. We are excited to share updates as this project progresses.

## New Opportunities

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's involvement in the Care Economy CRC positions the institute at the forefront of reshaping Australia's future care workforce. By partnering with leading universities, industry, and community organisations, Holmesglen gains direct access to cutting edge research, evidence based innovations, and nationally coordinated investment in care excellence. This collaboration strengthens our ability to design future ready training, elevate workforce capabilities across health, aged care, disability, and community services, and co create solutions with industry that improve client outcomes.

Most importantly, participation ensures Holmesglen influences national priorities in the care economy—driving policy, innovation, and workforce transformation—while opening new pathways for applied research, staff development, and student opportunities. It's a strategic platform that amplifies our impact, deepens our partnerships, and solidifies our standing as a leader in Australia's care education ecosystem.

**For any questions about the Health Science, Community and Social Studies research, please contact:**

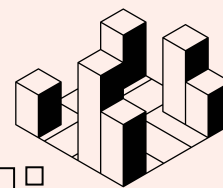
**Harrison Burgin**  
**E: [Harrison.burgin@holmesglen.edu.au](mailto:Harrison.burgin@holmesglen.edu.au)**

## 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.

**Holmesglen's Centre for Applied Research and Innovation will continue its work on these projects during 2026 and 2027, focusing on how best to effect technology transfer from B4 CRC research to Holmesglen Institute's teaching programmes.**



# 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 #55** In progress

### Financing the construction industry-smart finance and smart contracts

#### The Project

The project will explore case studied 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. It will lead to a clear report that responds to existing and emerging regulations, and a blueprint that can be used in a future phase to build the proposed technological solution.

#### Partners:

- Victorian Building Authority
- MBAV
- Holmesglen
- PT Blink
- Queensland University of Technology (QUT)

**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. As such the Atlas has two primary research objectives:

- **Objective 1:** Document the typology, frequency and concentration of common Australian house types (1940s-2010s) to test retrofit impacts.
- **Objective 2:** Demonstrate systematic and scalar retrofit strategies to meet targets for urban density, diversity and greening.

### Project Method

Adopting the methodology of the GANSW report “Five Common House Types in Sydney: Densification and Greening without Demolition”, the project has a five-part approach.

#### 1. Selection of Common House Types

National selection of common house types with the greatest potential for retrofit and adaptation, selected by local experts and through desktop review.

#### 2. Description of Types

Architectural drawings of representative case study types, each describing building materials, construction, dimensions, layouts, position on block, plot shape and setbacks.

#### 3. Testing Adaptive Potential of Types

Conceptual tests for reconfiguration, subdivision and extension of existing dwellings, the subdivision of plots and the addition of new volumes for living and shared amenity.

#### 4. Mapping Types at Scale

Mapped analysis to determine the frequency and concentration of selected house types at precinct, suburb and metropolitan scales. This identifies potential sites, and quantifies the scope of applying intensification and greening strategies.

#### 5. CRC Partner Workshops and Consultations

Facilitated workshops with CRC leadership and partners considering systematic components and methods of construction to inform potential next stage research as outlined below.

### Project Progress

The research is on track to meet target deadlines, with the final report due by 31 May 2026.

The project has had significant engagement with esteemed architectural experts and industry partners.

### Interim Project Outcomes and Significance

Two Streams of Research Output:

#### Stream 1: Common House Types Retrofit Catalogue

- Unprecedented contextual overview and documentation of common Australian houses
- National historic and contemporary housing types overview, informed by local expert knowledge
- Systematic mapping of housing typologies, quantities, locations
- Demonstration of adaptive potential of common house types for density, diversity and urban greening

#### Stream 2: Next-stage Industry Research Potential (beyond CRC58 project scope)

- Bespoke, regulatory, retrofit framework that includes incentives to support adoption
- Cost-benefit feasibility matrix informed by locally specific common construction methods
- Creation of new, specialised retrofit training and apprenticeship schemes

### Next Stage Research

The agreed two research objectives support the identification of future next-stage potential research streams beyond the scope of CRC58. Such research includes:

- Whole-of-building retrofit strategies that integrate replicable components
- Numerical reporting to quantify potential retrofit impacts e.g. carbon savings, sustainable targets
- New business opportunities for retrofit strategies including revised education, construction models
- A pilot retrofit project at 1:1 scale

**There is great potential for this SIP to align with work done previously on SIP#48: the Circular Economy**

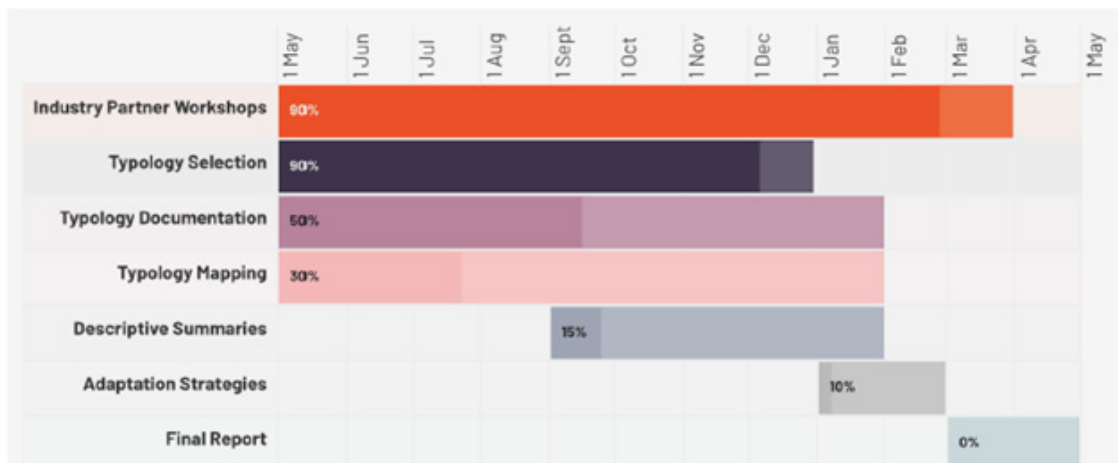


Fig 1. Gantt chart mapping project completion achieved at December 2025 and anticipated conclusion May 2026.

## Project #80

### Insolvency in Construction

The research explores the causes of high insolvency rates in the residential construction sector (see graph below), addressing concerns about financial risk management as well as policy and regulation impacts. The focus is on reducing the broader economic and other impacts of residential building company failures, by triangulating insolvency data, sector systems and the educational environment to identify key focal points for reform. The final report's insights and recommendations will provide regulators, industry and educators evidence-based guidance in designing reforms, preventative measures and educational supports to enhance the robustness of the sector and bolster its role in housing affordability.

**The B4.0 CRC Final Milestone Review has been completed and the final report has been submitted.**

## Project #80 Update

**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 Deliverable Description

- Accessible piece on the impact of construction insolvencies on the broader economy and social outcomes.
- 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.
- Plain-English webinar aimed at highlighting Education reform opportunities (BuildSkills and Australian Skills Quality Authority (ASQA)
- INSOL International Podcast (INSOL International is a world-wide federation of national associations of accountants and lawyers who specialise in turnaround and insolvency).
- Brief accessible article by INSOL International to insolvency students, academics and industry members who subscribe to I read, and also made available online.

## Project #90

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

The Project has been completed and the final report is being prepared. The Project Explained:

#### Industry Problem

Water ingress and moisture damage are the most dominant in building complaints. Prior studies have shown that over 30% of building disputes in Victoria are water-related, while non-compliant roofing and/or roof plumbing are among the most notable issues<sup>1</sup>. Roofing work is difficult to inspect using conventional 'in-person' physical inspection approaches due to timing of site visits for regulatory inspections and safety considerations.

The use of Remotely Piloted Aircraft Systems (RPAS) to support inspections of roofing offers the potential to strengthen on-site quality assurance of roofing work, regulatory oversight of roofing work, increase the rate at which non-compliant work is detected and rectified prior to occupancy, and inform the development of guidelines and training materials for practitioners for use of remotely piloted aircraft systems.

#### Project Aim

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 project sought to answer the following questions:

- What elements of roofing work can and cannot be accurately inspected using RPAS?
- How and when could inspection of roofing work by RPAS be performed?
- Is a technology-assisted inspection of roofing work more thorough, accurate and effective than a conventional 'in-person' inspection?
- To what degree could these emerging technologies enhance a conventional 'in person' inspection of roofing work?
- What are the costs, benefits and risks of RPAS-based inspection compared to conventional 'in person' inspections?
- What are the stakeholder perspectives on the use of RPAS-based inspection of roofing work?
- What factors must be considered for scaling up RPAS-based inspections?

To answer the research questions, several research tasks were completed, including stakeholder perspective mapping, cost-benefit analysis, regulatory study, field case studies and upscaling study.

#### Partners

- The University of Melbourne
- Monash University
- Building and Plumbing Commission
- Sumitomo Forestry
- Holmesglen Institute
- Master Builders Association Victoria



The RPAS in full flight

**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 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 researched 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.

**Phases completed or in progress (see below)**



**Another Holmesglen Research Initiative**

**Project #117**

**Graduate Certificate in Sustainable Building**

**Progress to date**

Addressing the sustainability challenges within the building and construction industry necessitates a fundamental transformation in how buildings are conceived, designed, and constructed, spanning every step from initial planning to completion. 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 Program**

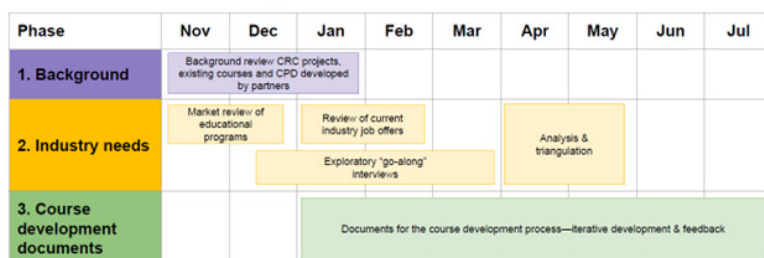
The proposed program will draw on research from the B4.OCRC, including projects like CRC#48: Building the Future—the Circular Economy and CRC#58: The Retrofit Housing Atlas. It will also be informed by the content areas related to subjects developed as part of CRC#66: Future of Construction Education

**Skills, Training & Education:**

A graduate certificate focused on sustainable design and construction practices would not only provide a further education and training outcome aligned with the research outputs identified in Project Building4.0 CRC#66, but it would also fill a gap in education and training for building and construction industry professionals. Such a program, by focusing on the use of digital solutions, new products, and innovative processes, aims to transform Australia's building industry towards a technologically enabled and sustainable future.

Crucially, addressing these challenges also requires the development of essential knowledge, skills, and capabilities within the workforce to adapt and build resilience in a world increasingly affected by climate change, a goal achievable through targeted education and training

**Progress Review 11/02/2026**



# VET, Applied Research and the Care Economy

In previous editions we heralded the arrival of Holmesglen's latest research initiative, the Applied Research and Innovation Care Economy project: a multi-stakeholder approach to applied research for the care economy involving TAFE, government, industry, and community.

In this issue we hear from the Care Economy project team through their latest newsletter.

## ARI Research News: January and February 2026

### Advancing Applied Research across the Victorian TAFE Network

The ARI Project has recommenced its Applied Research Capability workshop series for the new year. The team is dedicated to deepening our partnerships across the Victorian TAFE network, working collaboratively to further strengthen regional research and innovation practices.

#### February Workshop Schedule

- **Effective Survey Methodologies**  
Wednesday 18 Feb, 12:00pm–1:00pm  
Dr. Paramjit Tyndall (Holmesglen)
- **Advanced Academic Search Strategies**  
Wednesday 25 Feb, 9:00am–10:15am  
Christopher Meeking (Holmesglen)
- **Research Management: EndNote Mastery**  
Wednesday 25 Feb, 10:30am–11:45am  
Xhemale Kovaci (Holmesglen)

**Registration: To sign up or discuss accessibility requirements, please contact:**  
**E: [appliedresearch@holmesglen.edu.au](mailto:appliedresearch@holmesglen.edu.au)**

## Shaping Applied Research Development in Victorian TAFEs Survey.

[https://holmesglen.syd1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_cYBwfPKKO2R9iVU](https://holmesglen.syd1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_cYBwfPKKO2R9iVU)  
Or scan the code below.



Your voice will shape our upcoming offerings. Thank you to those who have already responded.

## Funding opportunity: ARI Round 3 “Seed” Grants

We are thrilled to announce the opening of Round 3. This final “Seed” round is specifically designed for high-impact, short-term projects that can be completed within a six-month window.

We are looking for TAFE practitioners and researchers to lead projects that refine current practices, launch pilot studies, or conduct formative evaluations that benefit the broader TAFE ecosystem.

#### KEY DETAILS

- **Funding:** \$50,000
- **Duration:** 6 months
- **Focus:** Strengthening SME partnerships and integrating VET with Higher Education pathways.
- **Final Product:** Evidence of refined practice or a comprehensive evaluative report.
- **Applications Close:** 16 March 2026, COB (5:00pm).
- **Strict Deadline:** No late submissions will be accepted; please ensure all documentation is prepared in advance.

**For Application Kits contact:**  
**E: [appliedresearch@holmesglen.edu.au](mailto:appliedresearch@holmesglen.edu.au)**

## Applied Research Grants: Round 2 update

Applications recently closed with an exceptional response from the Care Economy sector. Project details for Rounds 1 and 2 will be shared shortly, showcasing the innovation these collaborations are driving across the sector.

## How can we support your applied research in 2026?

Applied research in the TAFE sector is most impactful when addressing real-world industry challenges—but as our first sector-wide survey clearly indicated, the biggest challenge isn't interest; it is time.

We are committed to ensuring our upcoming calendar is relevant, accessible, high value. By moving away from “one-size-fits-all” professional development, we aim to deliver the formats you value most. Please tell us what fits your schedule:

- **Format & Frequency:** Would you prefer quick “Lunch and Learns” sessions or immersive, hands-on workshops?
- **Peer Support:** Are you looking for informal Communities of Practice (CoP) or a structured mentorship?
- **Skill Alignment:** Whether you are an experienced lead or an emerging researcher, your feedback ensures our support is pitched at the appropriate level.

# Focus on the researcher

**In previous research reports I have emphasised the need to broaden participation in research to include students, teachers, and 'early researchers', as an important step in strengthening research and embedding it into the very fabric of education and training at Holmesglen.**

This section of the report focuses on recent success by Holmesglen researchers in the submission of abstracts to the forthcoming AVETRA Conference; it also offers me the opportunity to introduce three researchers to our ranks: Dr Seun Oyekola, Glen Fredricks, and Dr Chris Kilby.

## Candace Van Der Krogt



Upholstery in Australia stands at a critical turning point. Once a flourishing craft, it is now facing an urgent skills shortage, an ageing workforce, and a diminishing number of training providers. This vital craft knowledge may soon disappear if decisive action is not taken. At the same time, the industry remains heavily reliant on polyurethane foam, an environmentally burdensome material whose production, degradation, and disposal contribute to significant waste, pollution, and occupational health concerns.

Against this backdrop, I have undertaken a 2025 International Specialised Skills Institute (ISSI) Fellowship to investigate how traditional upholstery skills, sustainable materials, and international best practice can inform the future of Australian vocational education and the broader upholstery sector, to a circular economy.

Since my return from research in the United Kingdom, I have been targeting my approach in the classroom, from the research I have gathered and the observations I have made while working closely with the upholstery schools in the UK. Bringing the craftsmanship back to VET training will strengthen the Cert III in upholstery and benefit every Australian who knowingly or unknowingly enjoys upholstery every day.

Perhaps the most compelling evidence of the fellowship's value lies in the transformation already underway at Holmesglen. Students are instinctively selecting natural fibres, blending materials to replace foam and incorporating circular-economy principles into their work. I have built sustainable materials display that encourages interaction with these fibres and thinking outside the square. I encourage all staff to come and have a look. I am eager to see the results of my fellowship report, once it has been published. I am confident that this research is shaping my industry, improving teaching at Holmesglen and creating a more sustainable future.

**Candace's Abstract for the 2026 Avetra Conference has been approved. The title of her report is: Learning From Tradition to Teach Tomorrow: Preserving the craft of upholstery through VET and equipping the industry for a circular future.**

## Research Update

## Sakshi Kaushal



### Advancing inclusion through Applied Research

Over the past quarter, I have been leading two key pieces of applied research aimed at strengthening student wellbeing, inclusion, and retention across the VET sector.

#### 1. Neurodiversity Initiative – Pilot Research & Co-Design

I am currently progressing a Neurodiversity Initiative designed to improve engagement, belonging, and course completion for neurodivergent learners. Drawing on early survey data, student feedback, and sector evidence, this initiative focuses on low-barrier, neuro-affirming supports including peer connection groups, practical skills-based workshops, accessible resources, and a co-design partnership with neurodivergent students.

The project is now moving through ethics processes and is set to gather expanded O-Week data to inform a future pilot program.

#### 2. AVETRA Conference – Accepted Scoping Review

I am also pleased to share that my scoping review abstract, 'Designing Sustainable Student Wellbeing Systems for Retention and Success in VET', has been accepted for presentation at the 2026 AVETRA Conference. The review maps current evidence on mental health and help-seeking among VET learners and highlights the need for whole-of-institution wellbeing systems that extend beyond individual counselling.

Using ecological systems theory and Universal Design for Learning, the work proposes a sustainable wellbeing model that embeds accessibility, belonging, and psychosocial safety across the learner journey.

Together, these projects contribute to building more inclusive, evidence-informed wellbeing systems that support diverse learner identities, strengthen retention, and enhance student success and creating a more sustainable future.

# A Holmesglen Welcome to New Researchers

## Glen Fredricks



Glen Fredricks is a civil construction trainer at Drummond St. As part of a research project with industry at the Drummond Street site, Glen played a key role in the setting up of obstacle fields for a robotic dog (Quadruped) named Luna. The research project involved the testing of robotic dogs in a tunnelling environment, particularly for its capacity to negotiate obstacles and deliver appropriate safety related support (gas monitoring, first-aid for rescue).

He is currently engaged in researching and applying improved ways to deliver induction training at Drummond Street through the utilisation of card games or gamification.

Glen's industry knowledge in the design and application of applied research projects further underlines the strength and diversity of applied research at Holmesglen.



Demonstration of Luna, the robotic dog, at the Drummond Street Campus

## Dr Chris Kilby

Dr Chris Kilby is a leading behavioural medicine researcher internationally recognised for his pioneering work on stress beliefs, stress appraisal, and the subjective stress response. He has been the President of the Australasian Society of Behavioural Health and Medicine and currently is the Chair of the Education and Training Committee for the International Society of Behavioural Medicine.

His research program has substantially advanced theoretical, measurement, and applied understanding of stress, including the importance of individual differences in the stress response, predictors of those individual differences, the role of cognition and beliefs in stress, and the development and validation of the Subjective Thoughts Regarding Stress Scale (STRESS), which has recently been translated and validated in Turkish.

Alongside his core program of stress research, Dr Kilby is an accomplished statistician and qualitative researcher, contributing to a broad publication portfolio across psychology, oncology, education, medicine, and health decision-making. His expertise spans a wide range of research design from theoretical cross-sectional observational research through to applied intervention research using complex clustered multi-levelled randomised controlled trials, as well as mixed methods research, systematic reviews, and meta-analyses. This has positioned him as a sought after collaborator, with much of his work outside stress arising from his methodological and analytic leadership.

His current research projects include investigations into the stress, wellbeing, and health service use of those with perimenopause, the lived experience of adults who grew up in youth residential care, workplace stress and trauma in youth residential workers, and health service accessibility for postpartum women.



## Dr Seun Oyekola

Dr Seun Oyekola is an education leader with more than 20 years' experience across vocational and higher education. As Education Manager at Holmesglen's Centre for Energy and Infrastructure, he leads circular-economy and clean-energy initiatives, major-project training programs, and industry-embedded workforce development. He brings a strong multidisciplinary background, supported by a Project Management Certification, a Postgraduate Diploma in Education, a Doctorate in Engineering, an MBA in Strategic Leadership and a Certificate IV in Training and Assessment. He has published over 50 peer-reviewed papers while supervising more than 30 postgraduate researchers. His research covers renewable energy, waste valorisation, resource recovery, bioremediation and social justice in education. Seun is also a multi-award-winning educator committed to impactful, industry-aligned learning innovation.

## Diary dates 2026

### CONFERENCES

**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



**Early Bird Deadline: Thursday 2 April 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).

##### Registration Includes:

- Access to full conference program from Wednesday 10 June - Friday 12 June
- Opportunity to add on a pre-conference Site Visit or Workshop taking place on Friday 12 June (some may incur a small fee)
- 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

**For details and prices for registrations see conference website: [www.wsbe26.org/](http://www.wsbe26.org/)**

#### AVETRA Conference 23-24 April 2026

The Australian Vocational Education and Training Research Association (AVETRA) invites abstract submissions for its 2026 Annual Conference, to be held in Brisbane, Queensland on 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/>

#### Nominations are now open for the Berwyn Clayton Award for Practitioner Research

AVETRA members are invited to nominate an early career or practitioner researcher whose research is making a positive impact when applied to VET practice.

Berwyn Clayton is a legend in the Australian VET research scene and has a long and distinguished association with AVETRA. From 1989 to 2014 Berwyn actively encouraged and supported VET teachers to undertake research. AVETRA has presented the Berwyn Clayton Award on a bi-annual basis at the AVETRA Conference since 2012. Over the years, the criteria for this award have changed, reflecting the broad impact that Berwyn has had on our sector.

In 2026, the Berwyn Clayton Award will again be awarded to a Practitioner Researcher.

**All nominees and those nominating them must be current AVETRA members.**

**Nominations close COB Friday 20 March 2026**

**For more details see the website:**

**<https://avetra.org.au/Berwyn-Clayton-Award>**

##### Not an AVETRA member yet?

Please note, to participate in this award, researchers must be current members of AVETRA. (NB. Holmesglen is an Institutional member: please contact Dr Henry Pook for further information regarding eligibility).

#### 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.

Delegates can also choose to attend one of the following five pre-convention activities, including practical workshops and site visits to specialised TAFE Queensland campuses:

- A tour of SkillsTech Acacia Ridge, TAFE Queensland's flagship trade training centre
- A South Bank campus tour
- A live demonstration of TAFE Queensland's Educational Planning System
- A connected session across Advanced Manufacturing Hubs
- A hands-on Microsoft workshop on scaling AI across TAFE

Pre-convention activities are complimentary but places are strictly limited. If you have already registered, please log back into your profile to select your pre-convention activity.

TDA Convention 2026 also includes opportunities to connect beyond the formal sessions, including the Convention Dinner featuring MC Steph Tisdell and a cocktail event with an immersive art experience at the Queensland Gallery of Modern Art.

**View the full program and secure your place at TDA Convention 2026 via the Convention website: TDA Convention 2026 – TAFE Directors Australia. Early bird registrations close on 28 February.**

## Update on NCVER's 'No Frills' Conference

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**

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 WEB-SITE for the Scholarships and Conference Grants and Prizes on offer: <https://conference.herdsa.org.au/2026/>**

## VET National Teaching & Learning Conference

**SAVE THE DATE: VET National Teaching & Learning Conference Thursday 13 & Friday 14 August 2026 @ MCEC.**

## VELG

**This year's theme: 2026NVC Theme: Forging a Trusted Future**

The 2026 National VET Conference will be delivered over two days on the 29th and 30th October 2026 at the Gold Coast Convention and Exhibition Centre. It will provide attendees with the opportunity to engage in a wide variety of plenary and concurrent elective sessions.

## 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.**

## Research Support

**APPLIED RESEARCH AND INNOVATION:  
a call to researchers, both old and new**

**What is applied research? Where do I start with a research project? How do I define a research project: topic, question, problem? What sources are needed? Where do I find them?**

The Holmesglen Centre for Applied Research and Innovation is on hand to provide some preliminary advice with your research and assist with an exploration of the issues surrounding questions such as these.

If you are keen to know more, please contact: The Centre for Applied Research and Innovation

**E: [appliedresearch@holmesglen.edu.au](mailto:appliedresearch@holmesglen.edu.au)**

## 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**  
**E: [henry.pook@holmesglen.edu.au](mailto:henry.pook@holmesglen.edu.au)**

**The Holmesglen Centre for Applied Research and Innovation**  
**Building 7, Room 2.05,**  
**Chadstone Campus, Holmesglen Institute**

**E: [appliedresearch@holmesglen.edu.au](mailto:appliedresearch@holmesglen.edu.au)**  
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## 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 9 April**
- **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](mailto: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.