

Dave Turner BIO

Dave Turner is an independent consultant in the related fields of youth work, education, industry/community partnerships, enterprise, vocational and careers education, and youth and community/economic development.

Over the last 30 years Dave has divided his time between Australia and the United Kingdom. He has also spent considerable time living in Switzerland where he studied their world class apprenticeship system, of which he has now become a strong supporter.

In 2001, Dave developed the Four Pillars of Career and Transition Support concept for the British Government's Connexions Program. This has provided a backdrop for his work in both nations over the last decade. He has worked with both Business in the Community and British Telecom, who together championed the Work Inspiration (WI) program in the UK.

Beginning in 2011, Dave has been heavily involved in introducing and developing the WI initiative in Australia and New Zealand - a work exposure and exploration project that has been led and resourced by employers (alone, or in a cluster). Its purpose is to re-imagine work experience in Years 9-10. Over the last 18 months Dave has worked with Schools Industry Partnership, The Smith Family and Careers New Zealand to lead a series of master classes for employers, educators and brokers who are dedicated to developing WI.

Dave spent 10 years in the UK working as a consultant for a large international manufacturing company, developing their community/education collaboration across six nations. Soon after, Dave was commissioned by the Australian Government to tap into his international networks in order to help develop their partnership strategy for youth attainment and transitions. This included undertaking a critical analysis of the partnership journey under the UK Government from 2000 to 2010.

Dave has undertaken consultancy work for such international organisations as OECD and The Commonwealth Foundation. His work has spanned across various nations including the UK, Australia, New Zealand, South Africa and Switzerland.

Collaboration between employers and schools has been the central plank to Dave's work regarding partnerships. This began with his involvement in the OECD international study in 1990 on such partnerships, and continues through to this day with his involvement with the Education and Employers Taskforce UK, and their Inspiring the Future initiative.

Dave has worked closely with employers to explore how their contribution to the vocational learning, career and pathway development of students can be enhanced and sustained. Dave's recent research of the Swiss apprenticeship system has closely examined the world's best practice in these matters. This research concentrated upon the high quality employer engagement in schools that underpins a Swiss Apprenticeship system in which 70% of all 15-19 year olds participate and there is a 91% completion rate.

Over the last 10 years, Dave has played a significant role in the development of successful programs run by the NSW Government's Department of Education. He has facilitated training and professional development for more than 1500 teachers and youth workers who are engaged in the Career Search, Career and Transition Support Teams and Transition Adviser initiatives.

Funded by Group Training Australia and the Federal Government, Dave conducted a nationwide series of workshops which enabled partnerships between schools, youth services and training/employment agencies to review their collaboration in a structured manner, identify the kind of support they required from brokers and to then strategically plan for their future.

Recent work has also included offering keynote presentations and the development of a series of "cross-sector" and interactive workshops that have involved schools, youth services and other partners. These presentations and workshops have been provided for such organisations as The Salvation Army, The Smith Family, Beacon Foundation, Group Training Australia and state governments. In the UK, organisations include Leeds University, Connexions, Community Service Volunteers, the Regional Youth Work Unit and Changemakers.

In the last two years, Dave has worked extensively across New Zealand and Australia on matters pertaining to youth employment, work exploration and developing more youth-friendly employers. He is currently developing materials and workshops around the importance of such higher-order generic skills such as imagination, creativity and innovation and their relevance to the social and economic futures of young people. These materials have been enriched by Dave's recent international research into the topics of intrapreneurship by young people and enterprise education.

Dave has been integral to the design and development of youth programs that have engaged more than 100,000 teenagers from the UK and Australia in community and work-based learning. All of these programs have highlighted the leadership role that young people can take in their career development, in enterprise education and meeting the challenges of youth employment and community/economic inclusion. Dave is a strong advocate of the power of peer support. On many occasions, his consultancy work has connected the policy agendas of youth attainment, productivity and skills,

social inclusion and regional development in both disadvantaged urban and rural communities. Dave particularly enjoys working at the interface between policy and practice, and connecting related policy agendas, particularly at a regional level.

Dave now lives in the Adelaide Hills in South Australia, is a 'sad cricket tragic' and really enjoys watching British drama on TV, socialising with friends, as well as engaging with young people about both 'now and the future'.

His email address is djturner10@bigpond.com