Renewing the relationship between life and work

Allie Clemans

Monash University

'I sent out 526 resumes before landing my dream job'



One in five
Australians who are
out of work are
teenagers as youth
bear burden of
worsening national
unemployment: new
report



THE TEENAGE DREAM UNRAVELS TRENDS IN YOUTH UNEMPLOYMENT

MARCH 2015

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The New Hork Times

Late Edition

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LEARNING CENTRAL TO EMPLOYABILITY **POLICY**



Colleges Show **Uneven Effort** To Enroll Poor

Costs Hinder New Tack to Achieve Diversity

By RICHARD PÉREZ-PEÑA

ed to rule soon in a closely

A \$10 MILLION CAMPAIGN

Using PAC to Maintain Friendly Policies of Bloomberg Era

By RAYMOND HERNANDEZ

A group of real estate execu-

nies, investment firms and oth-

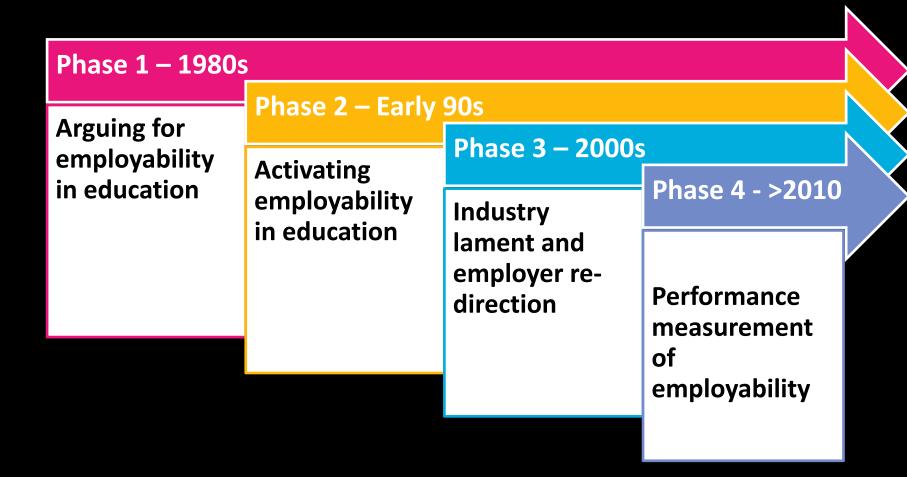
An Australian case

- 1. Employability skills as part of lifelong learning
- 2. Four phases in the policy direction on Employability skills
- 3. Evaluation of Employability skills
 - what do they do now?
 - what have they not done enough of?
 - what could they do more of?

National Agreement for Skills and Workforce Development

a vocational education and training (VET) system that delivers a more productive and highly skilled workforce, enabling all working age Australians to participate effectively in the labour market and contribute to Australia's economic future (COAG, 2012, Front piece).

Employability skills in Australia



The Quality of education in Australia: Report of the review committee highlighted their concerns with the educational experiences of post-compulsory school age students in preparing them for the workforce (Karmel, 1985).

There are 'certain essential things which all young people need to learn in their preparation for employment' (Finn, 1991, p. x).

Mayer Key Competencies

- 1 Collecting, analysing and organising information
- 2 Communicating ideas and information
- 3 Planning and organising activities
- 4 Working with others and in teams
- 5 Using mathematical ideas and techniques
- 6 Solving problems
- 7 Using technology

Training to compete: The training needs of industry (1999)

Employability Skills for the future (2002)

Industry representatives indicated that enterprises were placing an increasing premium on generic skills in employees as essential in contributing to enterprise productivity, due to the current trend of "restructuring its workforce in order to maximise use of skills...[including] self-managed work teams and multi-skilling" (Allen Consulting, 1999, p. v).

In the second report, employers further confirmed their concern at the generic skills' deficit among employees.

The enterprise representatives demanded Key Competencies *in all employees*, not only in graduates (ACCI & BCA, 2002).

Mayer Key Competencies	Employability Skills
1 Collecting, analysing and	1 Communication
organising information	
2 Communicating ideas and	2 Team work
information	
3 Planning and organising activities	3 Problem-solving
4 Working with others and in teams	4 Initiative and enterprise
5 Using mathematical ideas and	5 Planning and organising
techniques	
6 Solving problems	6 Self-management
7 Using technology	7 Learning
	8 Technology

No more excuses: An industry response to the language, literacy and numeracy challenge (ISC, 2011).

Adult Literacy and Life Skills Survey (ALLS) which found that 40% of employed Australians (and even higher for those not engaged in employment) had language, literacy and numeracy (LLN) levels below that needed to meet the demands of the current work environment and to participate fully in the community (SCOTESE, 2012).

This trend was reconfirmed in the 2011-2012 nation-wide survey Program for the International Assessment of Adult Competencies (PIAAC) (ABS, 2013, Cat No 4228.0).

- 1. National Foundation Skills Strategy for Adults *
- 2. Foundation Skills Training Package
- 3. Australian Core Skills Framework
- 4. Core Skills for Work Framework *

The Foundation Skills were identified as:

- English language, literacy and numeracy (LLN) listening, speaking, reading, writing, digital literacy and use of mathematical ideas; and
- employability skills, such as collaboration, problem solving, self-management, learning and information and communication technology (ICT) skills required for the participation in modern workplaces and contemporary life. (SCOTESE, 2012, p. 2)

By 2022, two thirds of working age Australians will have literacy and numeracy skills at Level 3 or above.

The industry view of the lack of employability skills was to be addressed by government:

...making sure employers have confidence that education and training programs are producing job-ready workers". Minister O'Connor's statement (2013, para. 6)

Key Competencies

- 1. Collecting, analysing and organising information
- 2. Communicating ideas and information
- 3. Planning and organising activities
- 4. Working with others and in teams
- Using mathematical ideas and techniques
- 6. Solving problems
- 7. Using technology

Employability Skills

- 1. Communication
- 2. Team work
- 3. Problem-solving
- 4. Initiative and enterprise
- 5. Planning and organising
- 6. Self-management
- 7. Learning
- 8. Technology

Core Skills for Work

CLUSTER 1

Navigate the world of work

- Manage career and work life
- Work with roles, rights and protocols'

CLUSTER 2

Interact with others

- Communicate for work
- Communicate and work with others
- · Recognise and use diverse perspectives

CLUSTER 3

Get the work done

- Plan and organise
- Make decisions
- Identify and solve problems
- Create and innovate
- · Work in a digital world

What employability skills do now?

Address the changing contexts of work

What employability skills don't do enough of?

Consider what this means for someone seeking to *enter* the field of work

What employability skills could do more of?

1) Confront the evidence

44%	Of graduates not employed before training who
	were employed after
60%	Of graduates who had an improved employment
	status after training
15%	Of those employed before training who were
	employed at a higher skill level after training
30%	Of graduates who were employed in the same
	occupation as their training course
33%	Of graduates were employed in a different
	occupation but found the training relevant to their
	current job (NCVER, 2014)

What employability skills could do more of?

2) Address transition points and transitional identities

The longitudinal Life Patterns study of young people in Australia (Woodman & Wyn, 2013) observed that "it took fourteen years from leaving school for the majority of our participants to achieve employment stability" (p. 270).

What employability skills could do more of?

3) Ask what a learner *needs to learn* in order to navigate the world of employment as much as we ask what does an employer need to assure the future of an enterprise.

...there are gaps within the employability skills around how to construct an employee biography, how to navigate employment uncertainty and respond to the "supercomplexity" (Tynjälä & Gijbels, 2012, p. 219) of the changing world of work.

The Core Skills for Work Developmental Framework declares that the core skills are:

"the skills and behaviours that have been identified by Australian employers as important for successful participation in work" (DIICCSRTE, 2013).

	Reasons for engaging in training
83%	Employment related
4%	For further study
12%	For personal development