



CAPABILITY STATEMENT

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ABOUT US

The Equity Research Centre is acknowledged as a driving force in the understanding and development of best practice for disadvantaged people in employment, education and training.

Since 1992, the Centre has operated as an independent, not for profit organisation of leading academics, community workers, educators and researchers.

They proudly believe in the Australian concept of a Fair Go for everyone and they are committed to a society in which everyone can properly access the best possible education, training or employment opportunities. The ERC works with government, commercial and not-for-profit clients across four primary platforms:

Investigate	Specialist, experienced researchers are used to find out the issues that disable and disadvantage people in education or the workplace.
Identify	Using this research; with access to the best global information, and a catalogue of in-house reports and projects, the ERC helps define potential issues that may disadvantage one or more segments in the community.
Inform	Advising industry and education sectors of pertinent issues and advocating appropriate solutions.
Implement	Working with clients to bring about appropriate change or to cement existing best practice, using presentations, workshops and drafting local policy.

OUR SERVICES

Research	The ERC provides competitive, cost effective research and project solutions to the public and private sector.
Resource	Access to research and outcomes from local and international networks.
Reporting	Preparation of documents from primary or accumulated research. Workshop development and presentation. Policy Development. Audit of existing policy and practice. Publication of the Fair Go Newsletter

OUR KNOWLEDGE

Our knowledge base is informed by over 200 projects in a range of areas including:

Adult Community Education	Vocational and Technical Education
Health Promotion	Corrections and Criminal Justice
Disability Discrimination Legislation	Employment and Workplace Reform

OUR EXPERIENCE

Alongside the contribution of leading authorities via our Board and associated networks, the Centre can immediately provide a significant depth of experience in:

Research and Methodology	Measurement and Evaluation
Strategic Planning and Facilitation	Social and Community Psychology
Policy Analysis and Advice	Pilot Project Design and Implementation
Evaluation and Reporting	In-House Audit of Process or Workplace

OUR CLIENTS AND COLLABORATIONS

The ERC has developed an impressive list of projects undertaken directly for clients and in collaboration with clients and other research groups.

ACPET Adult, Community and Further Education Division	Nanotechnology Victoria NMIT Centre for Excellence for Students who are Deaf and Hard of Hearing Office for Youth, Department for Victorian Communities
A.G. Coombs Pty Ltd	Office of Training and Tertiary Education, DIIRD Outer Eastern Local Learning and Employment Network (Outer Eastern LLEN)
Architectus Australian Industry Group	Pitt Group Racing Victoria Red Marketing Works Scope Victoria
Bridge8 Brotherhood of St Laurence Carroll Recruitment Pty Ltd Capital City LLEN City of Melbourne Coleman Rail Pty Ltd	Security 4 Women network Slingshot Community Enterprise & Employment Centre Southern Building Structures State Government of South Australia (DFEEST) State Library of Victoria Structural Challenge TAFE Disability Network TAFE SA
Corrections Victoria Creative Hat Interpretation Disability Employment Action Centre (DEAC) DECA Eastern Industry Education Partnership Employment Programs, Department for Victorian Communities Equal Opportunity for Women in the Workplace Agency (EOWA) Evaluation Solutions Gateway Local Learning and Employment Network (Gateway LLEN) Group Training Association VIC Hansen & Yuncken Pty Ltd Hansen Partnership Pty Ltd Hassell Helen Macpherson Smith Trust Koorie Business Network Land Design Partnership Pty Ltd Leadership Plus	Thiess John Holland – Eastlink VET Research Network Victorian Aboriginal Education Association Inc (VAEAI) Victorian Council of Social Services Victorian Industry Training Board Association Victorian TAFE Association Victorian VET Research Network Victorian Women's Trust VISTA Wathaurong Glass WAVE (Women in Adult and Vocational Education) William Angliss Institute of TAFE YWCA
MS Society Melbourne City Council, Design and Culture Department	

OUR TEAM

Dr Madeline Fernbach PhD B.Sc(Hons) MAPS GAICD Executive Director

A registered psychologist with a Doctorate in Social Psychology, Madeline has an extensive knowledge about social identity that is informed and updated by her leadership of research projects, methodology and policy development across the government and private sector.

Madeline has previously worked within the State Government's Access and Equity sector and at the Cancer Council of Victoria undertaking detailed behavioural research and evaluation.

Dr Helen Kimberley PhD B.Ed Senior Researcher

Helen leads the primary research function and constantly seeks process improvements to bring about better outcomes for disadvantaged people accessing her clients' services.

A respected Change Management expert, Helen worked for over a decade as an adult educator before spending a further ten years managing the Association of Neighbourhood Houses and Learning Centres. She has authored several research papers and publications for government and university clients Australia-wide.

Bettyanne Foster BA Project Officer

Bettyanne's area of expertise within the ERC is a detailed knowledge of the Disability Discrimination Act Education Standards and Human Rights legislation. She has conducted over 30 compliance workshops for Victorian training providers.

Prior to joining the ERC, Bettyanne worked in the Rural Health Research Unit at James Cook University, and prior to that was the Manager of the Gippsland Research and Information Service based at Monash University Gippsland Campus for a decade.

Nelly Thomas BA(Hons) Research Officer

Nelly is a prolific author of papers and research relating to disadvantage, informed by over a decade working for organisations like the Victorian TAFE Association and the Council for Homeless Persons (Victoria) in policy and research roles.

Danielle Chaffey MA(Crim) BA(Hons) Research Assistant

Danielle worked for the Brotherhood of St Laurence as a researcher and for the Darebin Youth Resource Centre before joining the ERC.

She has a Masters and a BA(Honours) in Criminology. Her background has ensured that the ERC has been able to expertly focus on the issues impacting individuals seeking to re-enter society with appropriate skills and community support

Bonnie Simons BA(Hons) (Comm Dev) Dip VET Research Assistant

Bonnie joins the ERC with extensive experience in neighbourhood houses and the university sector as a research assistant and trainer. Her knowledge of the Adult Community Education sector has been invaluable in realising the high standard of expertise the ERC enjoys in this field.

Bonnie has a Diploma of Vocational Education and Training, a BA in Community Development and a Diploma in Community Development.

OUR BOARD

The ERC is justifiably proud of the calibre and expertise of our Board in Research, Methodology and Equity Principles. They actively participate in the activities of the ERC providing guidance and counsel and generously give time to advocate for the vision of the Centre.

The Board comprises:

Professor Helen Praetz	Emeritus Professor, Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology
Ms Veronica Volkoff	Centre for Post Compulsory Education and Lifelong Learning, University of Melbourne
Professor Gerald Burke	Executive Director, Centre for the Economics of Education and Training (CEET) and ACER, Monash University
Dr John Spierings	Research Strategist, Dusseldorp Skills Forum
Professor Allan Ballagh	Director, Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology TAFE Division
Ms Jacqueline Watts	Executive Director, VISTA
Ms Fiona Purcell	Executive Manager, Outer Eastern LLEN

OUR PARTNERS

We are delighted to engage in partnerships with organisations and individuals whose interests align with ours. Some of our current partnerships include:

Research Associates

Dr Nicole Milburn	Clinical Psychologist, B.Sc. Grad Dip Couns psych. D.Psych MAPS Member of Clinical College of the Aust.Psychological Society
Dr Benedict Williams	Lecturer, School of Behavioural Science, LaTrobe University
Alyena Mohummadally	Solicitor and Community Legal Education Coordinator, Disability Discrimination Legal Service Inc.

AFFILIATE ORGANISATIONS

California Community College Collaborative, University of California at Riverside, USA

Centre for the Economics of Education and Training (CEET)

Centre for the Post Compulsory Education and Lifelong Learning, University of Melbourne (CPELL)

