

# Curtain Consulting

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**Curtain Consulting** is a public policy consultancy, established in 1993, specialising, among other issues, in labour market analysis and skill formation issues in Australia and overseas. Curtain Consulting has worked in close association with a high profile national consultancy group that specialises in public policy analysis, The Allen Consulting Group. The consultancy has also worked closely with four university-based research centres: The National Institute for Governance, University of Canberra; the National Institute of Labour Studies, Flinders University; Centre for the Economics of Education and Training, Monash University; and the Institute for Science & Technology Policy, Murdoch University.

**Richard Curtain**, the principal consultant, is a Professional Associate of the National Institute for Governance and a Research Associate of National Institute of Labour Studies, Flinders University. Other appointments include member of the Education and Training Statistics Advisory Group of the Australian Bureau of Statistics and 'the experts panel', Victorian Qualifications Authority. Richard has held the positions of Associate Professor in the National Key Centre in Industrial Relations, Monash University (1990-1991) and Manager, Workplace Reform, Public Transport Corporation of Victoria (1992). Richard has a Doctorate from The Australian National University.

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## Recent relevant projects include:

Preparation of an analytical report on **How Young People are Faring 2003** for the Dusseldorp Skills Forum - the fourth annual report produced for the Forum, using official statistics to identify the size of the group of secondary school leavers 'at risk' of not making a successful transition from education to work - [www.dsf.org.au](http://www.dsf.org.au)

Report for the National Centre for Vocational Education Research on Vocational Education and Training and Innovation Systems with case studies of vocational education and training in Finland, Singapore and Korea

Survey of IT employers in relation to attitudes and practice concerning structured work placements for secondary schools, as part of a project for the National Information Technology & Telecommunications Industry Training Advisory Body

Survey of 200 coordinators of school industry partnerships in association with Suzanne Moore Consultancy for the Enterprise and Career Education Foundation  
[www.ecef.com.au](http://www.ecef.com.au)

Commissioned by the ILO Asia Pacific Region to carry out a Thematic Study on Promoting youth employment through information and communication technology (ICT): Best practices in Asia and the Pacific, Regional Meeting on Youth Employment in Asia and the Pacific, February 2002

Major contributor to a report to SkillsNet Association Co-operative Ltd, a community-based umbrella group in regional Victoria, to identify Best Practice in E-Commerce training. Report entitled *e-Barriers e-Benefits e-Business Bridging the Digital Divide for Small and Medium Enterprises* (July 2001).

## Major publications

- 2004 'Youth in Extreme Poverty - Dimensions and Country Responses', Chapter Three in **World Youth Report 2003: The Global Situation of Young People**. United Nations Publications, New York and at: <http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/unyin/wyr/>
- 2003 **How Young People are Faring Key Indicators 2003**: An update about the learning and work situation of young Australians' [www.dsf.org.au](http://www.dsf.org.au)
- 2002 **Online delivery in the vocational education and training sector: improving cost effectiveness**. National Centre for Vocational Education Research, Adelaide, <http://www.ncver.edu.au/research/proj/nr0F04.pdf>
- 2001 **Reasons for New Apprentices' Non-Completions**. Mark Cully and Richard Curtain National Centre for Vocational Education Research, Adelaide. <http://www.ncver.edu.au/apprentices.htm>
- 2001 **An entitlement to Post Compulsory Education: International Practice and Policy Implications for Australia**. Report for the National Centre for Vocational Education Research, Adelaide. <http://www.ncver.edu.au/research/proj/nr9040.pdf>
- 2001 With Mark Cully, 'New Apprenticeships: An Unheralded Labour Market Program', **Australian Bulletin of Labour**, Vol 27, No 3, September., p 294-215.
- 2001 "[Youth and employment: a public policy perspective](#)", **Development Bulletin**, Development Studies Network, Research School of Social Sciences, The Australian National University, Canberra, No 55, August.
- 2001 **An entitlement to Post Compulsory Education: International Practice and Policy Implications for Australia**, Report for the National Centre for Vocational Education Research, <http://www.ncver.edu.au/research/proj/nr9040.pdf>
- 2001 Lifelong learning: good idea but what does it mean? **CEDA Bulletin**, June, <http://www.ceda.com.au/CEDA%20BulletinF.htm>
- 2001 'Mutual Obligation and the Young Unemployed: Policy and Practice in Australia compared with the UK', Invited paper, **Australian Academy of Social Sciences Workshop on Mutual Obligations and Welfare States in Transition in Australia, the US and the UK**, Sydney University February 22-23.
- 2001 **Barriers to Training for Older Workers and Possible Policy Solutions** a study conducted in association with the National Institute of Labour Studies at Flinders University commissioned by the Department of Education, Training & Youth Affairs see <http://www.detya.gov.au/iae/documents/olderworkers/olderworkers.htm>

- 2001 “Flexible workers and access to training” **International Journal of Employment Studies**, Vol 9, No 1, April
- 2000 ‘Background paper: identifying the basis for a youth employment strategy aimed at transition and developing economies’, United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Division for Social Policy and Development, New York.  
<http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/youthemployment/1-curtain.pdf>
- 2000 “[Victorian school leavers: pathways and outcomes](#)”, **Fine Print: a Journal of Adult English and Language Literacy Education**, Vol 32, No 3, pp 15-18.
- 2000 With Mark Cully, Adriana VandenHeuvel and Mark Wooden, “Participation in, and Barriers to Training: the Experience of Older Adults”, **Australian Journal on Ageing**, Vol 19, No 4, November
- 2000 "[The Workplace of the Future: Implications for Vocational Training](#)", **European Journal of Vocational Training**, No 19, pp 29-37, March.
- 1999 **Future Directions in Middle Level Training and Further Education: Research Report**. Office of Training & Further Education, Department of Education, Victoria, April.
- 1999 With John Phillimore & Stephen Algie, **Skill Requirements of Western Australia’s Resources Development Sector: Examples of International Models**, Report to the State Training Board of Western Australia. Institute for Sustainability & Technology Policy, Murdoch University.
- 1999 With Richard Sweet, **Young people and work: a National Issues Forum Report** Research Centre for Vocational Education & Training, University of Technology Sydney.
- 1999 **Young Peoples’ Transition from Education to Work: Performance Indicators** Dusseldorp Skills Forum web site, [www.dsf.org.au](http://www.dsf.org.au)
- 1998 "The Workplace of the Future: Insights from Futures Scenarios and Today’s High Performance Workplaces", **Australian Bulletin of Labour**, December.
- 1998 **Strategic Analysis by Sector of the Potential for Take-up of New Apprenticeships**. Allen Consulting Group Final Report to the Department of Education Training and Youth Affairs, December 1997.