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**About the Presenter:**

Leela Darvall is the Manager of the Careers and Transitions Support Team in the Youth Transitions Division, Victorian Department of Education & Early Childhood Development, Australia. She has responsibility for managing the development and implementation of policies in relation to careers and transition support for young people. Leela is a life member of the Career Education Association of Victoria and has worked previously as a teacher and a careers counsellor.

**Title of Paper:** **Improving career development services in Victoria, Australia**

**Abstract:**

Imperatives for effective career development programs and services in Victoria include:

- Young people in Victoria having a wider choice of educational programs and educational provider types than other states in Australia
- The movement towards demand driven funding in tertiary education through the Victorian Skills Reform and the Australian Government's policies on higher education participation and access, and
- the raising of the participation age to 17 which places further demands upon providers.

The workshop will outline Victoria's strategies to improve career development services with particular focus on four complementary initiatives. Three of these - the development of a Careers Curriculum Framework, Regional Career Development Coaches and Study Grants for professional development for career practitioners are focused on systemic change and capacity building to improve career development services for young people. The fourth, the Careers Mentoring Network Initiative is focused on improving outcomes for the most disadvantaged groups of young people.



Funding for these initiatives is through the National Partnership on Youth Attainment and Transitions, a joint initiative of the Australian and State and Territory Governments from 2010-2013. The Partnership aims to increase participation of young people in education and training, increase attainment levels, and improve successful transitions from school.