

## **Count Down to 2016 CDAA National Conference**

9 May 2016

Career Development will take centre stage in Melbourne this May for the [2016 CDAA National Conference](#).

More than 300 Australian delegates will converge on the city to hear from an impressive line-up of speakers, including former Labor Minister Maxine McKew and social researcher Mark McCrindle.

The 26<sup>th</sup> annual conference will aim to address the unprecedented transformation expected in the workforce, with 50 per cent of current occupations reported to be redundant by 2025.

CDAA Victorian Divisional President, Rebecca Fraser, said with this extensive change and the drive towards innovation, the national conference is pivotal to finding answers.

“We must understand the implications on current careers, the need for resilience and the important alignment between educational choices and future careers is extensively important for all individuals,” Ms Fraser said.

Despite stubbornly high employment rates, future skills shortfalls are expected in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) occupations.

“We are aware that Australia needs to increase the take up of STEM related careers, including driving more women towards this focus,” Ms Fraser said.

“But without having a fundamental understanding of how effective career development and national career development frameworks align to this, it may be challenging for some.”

Keynote speaker Maxine McKew, who released her book *Class Act* on the Australian education system in 2014, said the CDAA conference is rightly focussing on STEM.

“We have some good work going on there, but we need to do more to make sure students are taking STEM subjects at university,” Ms McKew said.

“Our entire health as a society and economic prosperity depends on the investment and the thoughtfulness we put into policy around education.”

**The 2016 CDAA National Conference will be held from May 25-27<sup>th</sup> at the Sofitel Melbourne on Collins.**

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The Career Development Association of Australia (CDAA) commenced as the Australian Association of Career Counsellors in 1989, and is Australia’s largest cross-sectoral association of career development professionals working in a diverse range of roles, delivering services in industry, government, education, employment programs and community organisations. The primary purpose of the CDAA is to support its members by leading, building and growing the career development profession.

**Georgia Kelly-Bakker, Communication & Events Officer CDAA**

**Phone: 08 82116961**

**Email: [communications@cdaa.org.au](mailto:communications@cdaa.org.au)**