

CDAA Applauds Four Corners Report 'Future Proof'

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The Career Development Association of Australia applauds ABC's Four Corners July 4 report 'Future Proof', highlighting the unprecedented transformation expected in the workforce.

With around half of current occupations expected to be redundant by 2025, a major issue facing Australia is how we can best educate our students to be equipped for the future workforce.

CDAA spokesperson Rebecca Fraser said while the association recognises the workforce transition is complex and has no simple solution, a nation-wide discussion needs to take place.

"The current education system is not the most suited for the future workforce with schools currently teaching skills for jobs that might not exist in 15 years," Ms Fraser said.

"We must work together to explore innovative teaching methods and find ways to place greater emphasis on STEM skills," Ms Fraser said.

Ms Fraser said Australia also needs a greater emphasis on career guidance in schools, to help maximise the chances of students finding employment.

"In many schools around Australia, career guidance is often provided by staff with full teaching loads or career counsellors with limited access to students," Ms Fraser said.

"We need students to have regular and ongoing contact with qualified career professionals, who have knowledge of the changing labour markets and are well informed of the uncertainty of our future workforce."

Having worked as a careers consultant, Ms Fraser said she is already seeing first-hand the difficulties young people are facing finding relevant employment.

"The number of graduates finding employment has dipped below 70 percent, the lowest number in 30 years," she said.

"A degree, for example, might not necessarily be the qualification needed for a fulfilling career anymore. This type of information needs to be fed into high schools and to parents."

'Future Proof' was reported by Geoff Thompson and presented by Sarah Ferguson on Monday 4th July, 2016 on ABC Four Corners.

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.

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