International Issues: More of the Same or Worlds Apart?

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Structure of education in Australia

- 3 sectors of post-school education
  - Senior secondary school
  - Vocational education and training (TAFE institutes – like your community colleges)
  - Higher education
- Curricular differentiation – competency-based training in VET, curriculum or knowledge based in HE – causes huge tensions
- The sectors are blurring & our system is starting to become more like yours – with important differences
  - Schools offer VET in schools
  - TAFEs offer higher education – although early days
  - Universities offer VET qualifications – although small
- Our tertiary education systems more driven by the market
Australia – big issues

- Increase productivity & participation (support social inclusion)
  - Targets mentioned earlier

- Big issues:
  - Increase pathways between sectors & credit transfer
  - Quality assurance – more marketised, more regulation
  - Role of the public provider in VET
  - Ministers making soothing noises, but cast public provider as being able to do things that privates can’t – solve market failure, support disadvantaged students, teach expensive trades and occupations – this residual – need to emphasise role of public institutions fulfilling public policy objectives