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What employers look for: the skills debate and the fit with youth perceptions

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Abstract

The notion of skills shortage pervades the rhetoric of economic reform and calls for Australia to become a skilled nation, and it is implicitly associated with conceptions of youth as attitudinally deficient and inadequately prepared to meet the needs of the contemporary economy. However, a lack of clarity exists regarding the term 'skills', the nature of the shortfall and the distinction between 'soft' as opposed to 'hard' skills.

While the new Australian employability skills framework identifies the attributes and disposition of the skills regime,

it leaves little room for the needs of the youth in the skills regime, and the fact life is not narrowly confined to the liberal education.

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Notes

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