School dropout and completion: international perspectives
Presented by Stephen Lamb, Deputy Director of the Centre for Post-compulsory Education and Lifelong Learning at the University of Melbourne.

Tuesday 16 November
6.00pm-7.00pm
Theatre A, Elisabeth Murdoch Building (Building 134)

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DEAN’S LECTURE SERIES 2010
Professor Stephen Lamb Lecture

School dropout and completion: international perspectives

School dropout remains a persistent issue in many countries, so much so that it is sometimes referred to as a crisis. Populations across the globe have come to depend on success at school for establishing careers and gaining access to post-school qualifications. Yet, large numbers of young people are excluded from the advantages that successful completion of school brings and as a result are subjected to higher likelihood of unemployment, lower earnings, greater dependence on welfare and poorer physical health and well-being.

Over recent decades, most western nations have stepped up their efforts to reduce drop out and raise school completion rates while maintaining high standards. How school systems have approached this, and how successful they are, varies. This lecture examines the nature of the dropout problem in advanced industrialised countries by drawing on a comparative international study which looked at the problem in terms of research, theory and policy.

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Free public lecture - all welcome. Refreshments provided

For further information contact Lauren Graham:
T: + 61 3 8344 8640
E: education-events@unimelb.edu.au

Professor Stephen Lamb is Deputy Director of the Centre for Post-compulsory Education and Lifelong Learning at the Melbourne Graduate School of Education at the University of Melbourne. Stephen is an international leader in the field of school policy research and the study of school systems. Recently, he completed an international comparative study of school graduation pathways for the California Dropout Research Project at the University of California, identifying system-level and school programs that reduce levels of dropout. Stephen has undertaken a range of high-impact policy research projects for governments, systems and schools covering such issues as effective intervention programs to promote school completion, alternative models of school funding, models of VET in Schools provision, higher education demand, and post-compulsory pathways and student outcomes.