



RAPS

NEWSLETTER

APRIL 2014

SOUTH WEST STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATION

RAPS has compiled a report on the outcomes of their visit to the South West region last year where they met with employers and key stakeholders to gather information for the Workforce Development Plan and to establish the priority issues for the region.

The report is available on the RAPS [website](#).

RAPS CAREERS BROCHURES

RAPS has produced a range of brochures and a career book to promote vocational education and training in schools. The brochures provide guidance to schools, parents and students about training and career paths in our industries.

To download your copies of the brochures in PDF format please visit <http://rapstc.com.au/careers-information>.

Full career books are available by calling RAPS on 9446 8177.

STATE NEWS

2014 WORLDSKILLS AUSTRALIA NATIONAL COMPETITION

In September 2013, WorldSkills Australia officially announced that the 2014 WorldSkills Australia National Competition would be held in Perth in September. It will be the first time since 1989 that Western Australia will be hosting the national competition.

WorldSkills Australia aims to highlight the opportunities available through a vocational education and training pathway, to shift perceptions and to create the understanding that to learn a skill, to choose a skill-based career, is one of the most important decisions a young person will make.

As such, WorldSkills Australia have decided to invite the Skills West Expo to become a part of the WorldSkills event.

For more information please visit the WorldSkills Australia [website](#).

If your organisation would like to talk about the opportunities for involvement in the National Competition or Try'aSkill program, please contact the WorldSkills Australia National Sponsorship Manager, Sam Fielke on sfielke@worldskills.org.au or (03) 9249 1000.

TRAINING TOGETHER – WORKING TOGETHER: ABORIGINAL WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY

Training together – working together is an initiative of the State Government in collaboration with Aboriginal communities and industry, to increase the number of Aboriginal people in training for sustainable employment in Western Australia.

Some of the key recommendations outlined in the strategy include connecting employers with Aboriginal job seekers, promoting Aboriginal role models and removing barriers to participation in the workforce.

To view the Training together-working together: Aboriginal workforce development strategy please visit the Department of Training and Workforce Development [website](#).

THE WORKPLACE ESSENTIALS FOR BETTER BUSINESS WEBSITE

The Workplace Essentials for Better Business website provides small to medium businesses with a 'one-stop' gateway to find useful information, templates, links and resources that will assist small to medium enterprises to better plan, attract, develop and retain a skilled workforce.

For more information, resources and practical tools please visit the Workplace Essentials [website](#).

DEPARTMENT OF TRAINING AND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT – STRATEGIC PLAN 2014-2018

The Department of Training and Workforce Development (DTWD) has released their 2014-2018 Strategic Plan.

To view the Strategic Plan 2014-2018, please visit the DTWD [website](#).

STATE TRAINING BOARD – NEW EVAC GUIDELINES

The State Training Board endorsed new Guidelines for the Establishment and Variation of Apprenticeships. The new guidelines were effective for all new applications from 1 January 2014.

To access the new guidelines please click [here](#).

TRAINING ACCREDITATION COUNCIL – COMPLIANCE MONITORING AUDITS

On 1 January 2014, the updated Vocational Education and Training (General) Regulations 2009 (VET Regulations) came into effect. The VET Regulations were updated to enable consistency with the National VET Regulator for the regulation of VET in Western Australia.

Under the VET Regulations, a new category of audit has been introduced which allows for the monitoring of ongoing compliance with the requirements of registration as a result of the

outcomes of previous audits. This new category of audit is referred to as a Compliance Monitoring Audit (CMA) and will come into effect from 1 May 2014.

For more information on the updated VET regulations and the CMA please visit the [TAC website](#).

THE SOUTH WEST FASHION FESTIVAL

The “South West Fashion Festival” was held on February 21 and 22 in Bunbury and showcased many local and state designers. This year the Pre-apprentice (PAIS students) from the hairdressing pilot program were incorporated in the whole event and on Friday 21st of February the students were involved in assisting the hairdressing team to prepare models for the event. Preparation took place at the South West Institute of Technology (SWIT) training rooms with the makeup artists also located in the training rooms, to be able to assist the students.

On Saturday 22nd, the students were also invited to another event to prepare models for on-going runway parades throughout the day. They were allowed behind the scenes for all facets and got a real taste of what it is like to be part of a real runway event and see the pressures and rewards involved.

Feedback from the students was fantastic and they were really inspired and excited to be a part of the hairdressing team. They particularly liked the way fashion designers, make-up artists and hairdressers worked together to create the total look.



The Pre-Apprentices at work

TRAINING PROVIDERS FORUM 2014 (19 & 20 May – Crown Perth)

Hosted by the Department of Training and Workforce Development, this two day conference and exhibition to be held at the Crown Perth will provide the latest updates on training and workforce development and showcase examples of innovation and good practice.

The Forum is aimed at all those involved in the planning, delivery and assessment of vocational education and training (VET) in Western Australia. This is a great professional development and networking opportunity for all training professionals.

If you would like to become an exhibitor or sponsor please contact Robert Couzens by email at Robert.couzens@dtwd.wa.gov.au

For further information on the Forum please visit the Department of Training and Workforce Development [website](#).

NATIONAL NEWS

2014 AUSTRALIAN TRAINING AWARDS

The Australian Training Awards are the peak, national awards for the vocational education and training (VET) sector, recognising individuals, businesses and registered training organisations for their contribution to skilling Australia.

Applicants may have the opportunity to reach the national stage in November this year and gain Australia-wide recognition for the work they do. The Australian Training Awards has seven categories **now open** for applications by direct entry. These include:

For individuals:

- National Leadership Award
- Lifetime Achievement Award
- Excellence in Language

For businesses:

- Disability Training Initiative Award
- Australian Apprenticeships – Employer Award

For registered training organisations:

- School Pathways to VET Award
- International Training Provider of the Year Award

For more information please visit the Australian Training Awards [website](#).

SERVICE SKILLS ENVIRONMENTAL SCANS 2014

Service Skills Australia released the 2014 Environmental Scans on 4 March 2014. To view the environmental scans, please visit the Service Skills [website](#).

FLORISTRY TRAINING PACKAGE – OPEN FOR CONSULTATION

The Floristry Training Package will be aligned to the National Skills Standards Council's (NSSC) Standards for Training Packages, under the Continuous Improvement processes. The purpose of the Standards is to ensure training packages are of a high quality and meet the workforce development needs of industry, enterprises and individuals. The Standards apply to the design of training package components and content.

Service Skills Australia has developed Draft 1 of the Floristry Training Package to be aligned to the NSSC Standards for Training Packages. The first draft of the Floristry Training Package has been based on initial scoping of industry, informed by the 2014 Service Skills Australia Environmental Scan and an evaluation of the existing SFL10 Floristry Training Package.

Draft 1 of the Floristry Training Package is now open for consultation. To access the Draft 1 Consultation Guide please click [here](#).

Feedback on the proposed draft qualifications and units of competency can be submitted until Friday 9 May 2014 on Service Skills Australia's online feedback register by clicking [here](#).

For further information please click [here](#) or contact Karen Banks at kbanks@serviceskills.com.au.

FREE PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT BY SERVICE SKILLS AUSTRALIA FOR TRAINERS

Service Skills Australia will be running a limited series of free professional development for Vocational Trainers. These free workshops are aimed at vocational trainers who have learners with literacy and numeracy needs.

Participants can enrol in either or both of the following sessions:

Workshop 1: Foundation skills: What's new (10am – 12.30pm)

Workshop 2: Foundation skills: Some support strategies (2pm – 4.30pm)

The workshops will be held in Perth on Thursday 12 June 2014.

For more information and to register for either session please click [here](#).

RETAIL WORKFORCE STUDY REPORT

Produced by the Australian Workforce and Productivity Agency (AWPA) in partnership with Service Skills Australia, the Retail Workforce Study report puts forward recommendations to build an adaptive, skilled and innovative retail industry workforce.

The study finds that to ensure a capable and committed workforce into the future, the industry must shift its recruitment profile towards a larger share of recruits who see retail as a career.

The report was developed in consultation with industry, unions and education stakeholders.

To view the report, please visit the Service Skills Australia [website](#).

FEDERAL INDUSTRY MINISTER IAN MACFARLANE SAYS SKILLS AND TRAINING SYSTEM NEEDS URGENT REPAIR

The Minister for Industry, Ian Macfarlane, says that skills and training needs significant reform and better targeted spending to fix serious structural problems.

Speaking on ABC National *Breakfast* in February 2014, the Minister stated that planned reforms were needed “so that we are actually producing skilled people who are literate and numerate” and able to make a productive contribution to the workforce.

As a part of this reform, the VET Reform Taskforce has been established to talk to registered training organisations (RTOs), industry and employers, VET service providers and students about their views on the strengths and weaknesses of the VET system and their ideas for reform. Workshops were held by the VET Reform Taskforce in March throughout the country, including Perth.

TAFE FACILITIES UNDER EXAMINATION IN SKILLS REVIEW

TAFE Institutes could be required to share their facilities with industry under proposals reportedly being considered by Industry Minister, Ian Macfarlane.

In an interview in *The Australian*, the Minister said there was a need to look at ways of better utilising the capital resources of TAFEs.

The Minister said he was looking at a program to be outlined in July that would include an element of self-regulation for some training providers that don't receive government funding.

To view the article in *The Australian*, please click [here](#).

VET IN SCHOOLS REVIEW

The Assistant Education Minister, Sussan Ley, has flagged a review of VET in schools that will give industry a greater say in the courses that are on offer.

In an article in the *Australian Financial Review*, the Minister said that she wants to see the VET in schools courses being determined by workforce demand and skills needs during a stakeholder roundtable in Melbourne.

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