



RAPS

NEWSLETTER

AUGUST 2014

RAPS ENVIRONMENTAL SCANS 2014

RAPS is pleased to advise that the 2014 RAPS Environmental Scans have been completed and have been uploaded onto our [website](#).

STATE NEWS

STATE PRIORITY OCCUPATION LIST 2014 RELEASED

The Department of Training and Workforce Development has released the State Priority Occupation List 2014 (SPOL) as well as the Western Australian Skilled Migration Occupation List 2014 (WASMOL).

The SPOL primarily informs the development of the State Training Plan, which guides the funding of training programs via the Priority Industry Qualifications List (PIQL). The SPOL Information Paper outlines in detail the methodology used for constructing the SPOL.

Another output from the SPOL is the Western Australian Skilled Migration Occupation List (WASMOL), which identifies occupations that are eligible for Western Australian-State nomination using skilled visa subclasses 190 and 489.

To view the SPOL and WASMOL, please visit the Department of Training and Workforce Development [website](#).

NEW FUNDING MODEL FOR SCHOOLS IN 2015

Education Minister, the Hon. Peter Collier MLC, has announced that public schools will receive a record amount of funding in 2015 under a new student-centred funding model.

Under this new model, every school will get the same amount of funding for each student depending on the year level of the student.

For the first time, every Aboriginal student will be allocated an extra \$1,631 to \$2,120 depending on the proportion of Aboriginal students in the school. Students with disabilities will also be allocated up to \$68,000.

Funding for targeted initiatives will be allocated directly to schools that provide specific services and programs such as the Gifted and Talented program.

For more information please click [here](#).

WORKPLACE ESSENTIALS ATTRACTION AND RETENTION PUBLICATION

The Department of Training and Workforce Development and their project partners have published the fifth in a series of workforce planning and development brochures tailored towards small to medium businesses.

The latest brochure titled 'Run an effective recruitment process', highlights strategies employers can use to attract a wide range of applicants and employ the right person for the job.

All brochures are available on the Workplace Essentials [website](#).

WA TRAINING AWARDS FINALISTS ANNOUNCED

Training and Workforce Development Minister, the Hon. Dr Kim Hames MLA, has announced the finalists for Western Australia's premier vocational education and training (VET) awards.

With more than 165 entries received from across the State, covering a range of individual and organisation categories, 42 finalists have been announced.

RAPS would like to congratulate Miss Amy Brown who has made it as a finalist in the category of Trainee of the Year. Amy is employed at Balshaw's Florist in Bicton and has recently completed her Certificate IV in Floristry.

Winners will be announced at a presentation dinner to be held on 11 September 2014 at the Perth Convention and Exhibition Centre.

For more information about the WA Training Awards, please click [here](#).

REGIONAL SMALL BUSINESS AWARDS

Regional small businesses across Western Australia have an opportunity to win cash and a major promotional media package as part of this year's Western Australian Regional Small Business Awards.

Hosted by the Small Business Development Corporation (SBDC) and supported by the State Government's Royalties for Regions program, applications are now open for the Awards.

To be eligible, businesses need to have won a corresponding award through a regional Chamber of Commerce or Small Business Centre awards program during 2014.

There are seven categories in this year's awards: home-based business, franchise business, Aboriginal business, business with 0-4 employees, business with 5-10 employees, business with 11-20 employees and small business achiever.

Applications close 5.00pm, 10 October 2014 – submissions to the Awards will only be accepted online.

For more information please click [here](#).

NATIONAL NEWS

SERVICE SKILLS AUSTRALIA NEW CEO

Service Skills Australia is pleased to announce the appointment of their new CEO, Ms Yasmin King.

Ms King will be replacing Jeanette Allen who formally retired from Service Skills Australia on 31 July 2014.

UNIQUE STUDENT IDENTIFIER (USI)

The Student Identifiers Act 2014 was passed through the Senate and proclaimed on 27 June 2014. Passage of the legislation confirms the 1 January 2015 commencement due date for the USI scheme.

The Minister for Industry, the Hon Ian Macfarlane MP, in consultation with the Ministerial Council, will now move to appoint a Registrar to oversee the implementation and ongoing management of the USI scheme.

The Department of Industry will work with training providers and key stakeholders over the coming months to assist with the preparation for implementation.

For more information please visit the Department of Industry's [website](#).

INDUSTRY SKILLS FUND – DISCUSSION PAPER OPEN FOR CONSULTATION

The Industry Skills Fund is a key element in the Australian Government's National Industry Investment and Competitiveness Agenda and will provide up to 200,000 training places and support services over four years.

The fund will assist small and medium sized businesses to successfully diversify and improve competitiveness in a global market, as well as assist Australian industry to access training and support services and develop innovative training solutions.

The Australian Government has developed and released a Discussion Paper to provide stakeholders with an opportunity to give feedback on the design and implementation arrangements for the Industry Skills Fund.

Stakeholders are encouraged to provide their feedback online through a [digital questionnaire](#) that should take no longer than 15 minutes.

Submissions responding to the Discussion Paper must be received by 7 September 2014.

Consultation sessions beginning in August 2014, will also be held. Further information on these sessions will be made available once details are finalised.

To view the Discussion Paper, please click [here](#).

WORLDSKILLS AUSTRALIA: WHAT DO AUSTRALIANS REALLY KNOW ABOUT VET PATHWAYS?

WorldSkills Australia undertook a quantitative survey in June 2014 to gain a better understanding of the knowledge and perceptions of Australians towards the Vocational and Education and Training (VET) sector.

The results showed a significant lack of understanding of the sector, with one in four Australians admitting to not knowing what is meant by the term “vocational education and training”. The research also showed that many Australians are unaware of the education and training options available to them.

To view the results summary, please visit the WorldSkills [website](#).

ASQA REPORT – REGULATORY ACTIVITY AND KEY ISSUES: 1 JULY 2011- 30 JUNE 2014

The Australian Skills Quality Authority (ASQA) has released its latest Provider Roundtable Report, revealing failure rates among training providers. More than a quarter of all audits conducted by ASQA, since it was established in 2011, have identified serious compliance problems with registered training organisations (RTOs).

This latest report shows that ASQA completed 3,652 audits between July 2011 and June 2014, with 72% compliant, 22% non-compliant and 6% discounted or awaiting a decision from an ASQA Commissioner.

To view the ASQA report please click [here](#).

NATIONAL SKILLS WEEK (25-31 AUGUST)

Now in its fourth year, National Skills Week provides a platform to highlight the opportunities and career pathways available through Vocational Education and Training.

The primary focus of National Skills Week is to promote the diversity, possibilities and options for career outcomes, and to recognise the teachers, students, business and training providers who make it happen.

It is expected that more than 500 events will be held across Australia.

WOOLWORTHS ANNOUNCES EMPLOYMENT CAMPAIGN FOR YOUNG AUSTRALIANS

Woolworths has announced the creation of 200 new jobs for young Australians, as part of 'Jobs 2014' - News Corp Australia's campaign to find 2,014 young Australians jobs over eight weeks from the beginning of July to the end of August.

Over this period, Woolworths will provide the new jobs within its business divisions of new stores for young people across Australia.

Interested job seekers are encouraged to visit the Woolworths Career [website](#).

NEW ATO APP FOR SMALL BUSINESS OWNERS

If you are an individual tax payer, small business owner or self-management super fund trustee, you can access tax and super information as well as tools all in one place – the new free ATO app.

The ATO app allows you to:

- lodge your 2014 individual income tax return if you have straightforward tax affairs
- track the progress of your income tax returns for the latest and prior financial years
- view and update your personal contact and financial institution details, and
- view all your super accounts and transfer any of your super into one account.

To view what else the app allows you to do, please click [here](#).

BUSINESS.GOV.AU WEBSITE UPGRADED

The business.gov.au website has been upgraded as part of the Department of Industry's Single Business Service.

The website has a new design to make it easier to find what you are looking for and is desktop, tablet and mobile-friendly.

Based on research and user testing with businesses, business topics are now grouped together. Some of these include:

- Starting a business
- Business planning
- Business structures and types
- Tax, finance and insurance
- Employing people
- Selling or closing your business

To view the new site, please click [here](#).

SMALL BUSINESS CONSULTATION FROM THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

Please find below a section from the Federal Treasury portfolio, regarding small businesses in the Retail Industry.

Costs of Doing Business: Retail Industry

- **Status:** Announced, currently underway
- **What is it:** The Australian Government has requested that the Productivity Commission undertake a case study of the costs facing businesses in the Australian retail trade industry, such as costs relating to capital, labour, intermediate inputs and regulatory compliance; and, where relevant, identify areas of cost advantage and disadvantage for Australian businesses relative to international competitors.
- **Audience:** Public – retail trade businesses
- **Consultation period:** 11 April to mid May 2014 (Issues Paper). Further consultation will be held after interim report is released in early June.
- **Contact:** retailtrade@pc.gov.au

To view the Issues Paper please click [here](#).

To view the Interim Report please click [here](#).

STAYING ON TOP IN 2014: TIPS FOR BUSINESSES

Kim Hutchinson from RSM Bird Cameron has four major tips for businesses looking to get ahead in the year ahead:

1. **Optimise the business for success** - Research evolving customer behaviour and make sure the business is in front of the consumer when they are ready to purchase, be that in store, on a smartphone or tablet or on the internet.
2. **Be prepared for upcoming legislative changes that can impact the business** - Changes to Australian Consumer Law have already caught out Harvey Norman franchisees to the tune

of over \$100,000. Make sure your business knows when laws are changed. The Abbott Government has promised small business reforms so make sure you know what is happening.

3. Keep corporate governance, due diligence and probity high on the corporate agenda -
“It is essential to a company’s reputation and credibility that effective corporate governance practices are in place at all levels, are working effectively and that there is a process of continual improvement,” said Hutchinson.

4. Ask for help before it’s too late - Make sure you seek out professional help as soon as you realise that things are going south.

MOBILE E-COMMERCE ESCALATES DATA SECURITY RISKS

The exponential growth in mobile e-commerce will leave Australian businesses critically exposed to data breaches unless they increase their focus on IT security, according to global consulting firm Protiviti.

According to Protiviti, the growth in mobile e-commerce presents both opportunities and threats for Australian businesses. The businesses that succeed will be those that invest adequately in IT security, according to Protiviti.

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