



RAPS

NEWSLETTER

JUNE 2014

RAPS ENVIRONMENTAL SCANS 2014

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

STATE NEWS

WA SELECTS TEAM FOR WORLDSKILLS

Sixty apprentices and trainees have been selected to represent Western Australia in the WorldSkills national competition to be held in Perth in September.

Training and Workforce Development Minister, the Hon. Dr Kim Hames MLA, said Team WA comprises 60 members, including eight students who will take part in VET in Schools' categories.

The Australian WorldSkills competition will be held in Perth from September 18-20, and is expected to attract more than 500 participants.

The RAPS sectors has 5 competitors. These include:

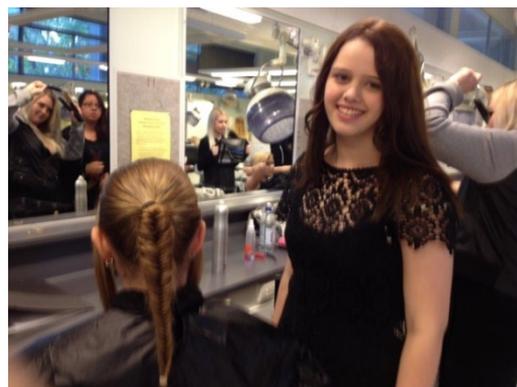
- Beauty – Natasha Webster
- Floristry – Linley Fullwood
- Hairdressing - Claudia Cole
 - Nathan Stanford
 - Chanelle Gericke

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

PRE-APPRENTICESHIP HAIRDRESSING PILOT PROGRAM

The pilot pre-apprenticeship program developed by RAPS for the Hairdressing Industry commenced in February 2014 across Western Australia in various private and state providers.

Feedback from state training provider, Challenger Institute of Technology indicates that the program has been received extremely well by Industry, who have been very impressed by the participating students. Additionally, some of the students from Challenger Institute of Technology have been assured of an apprenticeship with their host salons on the completion of their studies.



Pre-Apprentices at work

Source: Challenger Institute of Technology

2014 STRATEGIC INDUSTRY AUDIT OF VET IN SCHOOLS IN WA

During 2013, the Training Accreditation Council (TAC) endorsed a Strategic Industry Audit (SIA) of Vet in Schools (VETiS) delivery in WA. The SIA will focus on the quality of training and assessment being provided to VETiS students across a number of industry areas and delivery arrangements.

The scope of the SIA has now been determined, and the audits of RTOs included in the sample will be conducted during May and June 2014. It is expected that the final report will be released later this year.

For more information, please visit the TAC [website](#).

STRENGTHENING VET IN SCHOOLS OUTCOMES

The Education Minister, the Hon. Peter Collier MLC, and the Training and Workforce Development Minister, the Hon. Dr Kim Hames MLA, have jointly released a media statement launching three strategies to improve VET outcomes in schools and aligning the outcomes to industry expectations.

The key initiatives that are under way include:

- A Good Practice Model project which showcases schools that have demonstrated a strong commitment to providing quality VET in Schools programs
- A Qualification Register, which provides guidance to parents, students and schools about what VET qualifications are supported by industry
- New guidelines for schools and training providers to ensure quality and consistency across VET in Schools programs, available on a new VET in Schools website.
- The guide is designed for all stakeholders involved in school-based apprenticeships and traineeships including students, employers, Group Training Organisations (GTOs), Registered Training Organisations (RTOs), schools and parents.

The guide illustrates the roles played by each of these stakeholders and highlights the features of good practice; in particular, those aspects that have a positive impact on the effective delivery and beneficial outcomes of school-based apprenticeships and traineeships.

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

THE WORKPLACE ESSENTIALS FOR BETTER BUSINESS WEBSITE

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

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

NATIONAL NEWS

AUTOMATIC UPDATING OF A TRAINING PROVIDER'S SCOPE

From 1 July 2014, the Australian Skills Quality Authority (ASQA) will automatically update a training provider's domestic scope to include any new, equivalent version of a training product (qualifications and units of competency) they are already registered to deliver.

This will remove the requirement for a training provider to apply for a change of scope, and pay the required fee, to continue to deliver a training product that has been updated and endorsed as equivalent to the suspended product.

For more information, frequently asked questions and details surrounding this reform, please visit the ASQA [website](#).

AUSTRALIAN SECURITIES AND INVESTMENTS COMMISSION LAUNCHES SMALL BUSINESS PORTAL

The Australian Securities and Investments Commission (ASIC) have launched a new online hub to create an easier way for small business owners to find out about their legal obligations.

The hub features information regarding starting or closing a business, one minute guides on popular issues, videos and access to ASIC's new quarterly e-newsletter.

Visit the ASIC [website](#) to try the new hub.

WEBINAR: SIX STEPS FOR DEVELOPING QUALITY ASSESSMENT TOOLS

Assessment is one of the biggest areas of concern students and industry. In an audit conducted by the Australian Skills Quality Authority (ASQA) over 2012 and 2013, they found only 27% of RTOs had assessments that met the minimum standards. Quality assessments have a big impact on student outcomes, engagement and retention and improve the teaching experience.

There is a webinar available that will show you how to develop assessments worth teaching to in six steps. You will also review your own assessments, to check if they can be improved and provide a framework for developing assessments that meet and exceed the minimum standard required.

Details of the webinar have been provided below:

Presenter: Kerrie-Anne Sommerfeld

Date: Tuesday 24 June 2014

Time: 10.30am – 12.00pm

Cost: \$60.00

For more information about the webinar, please click [here](#).

THE AUSTRALIAN WORKFORCE AND PRODUCTIVITY AGENCY TO BE TRANSFERRED

The Australian Government has announced that the work and staff of the Australian Workforce and Productivity Agency (AWPA) will be transferred into the Department of Industry.

The transfer is anticipated to be completed by 1 July 2014.

To view the statement by the AWPA chair, please click [here](#).

ESTABLISHMENT OF THE INDUSTRY AND SKILLS COUNCIL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The Council of Australian Governments (COAG) agreed to streamline governance arrangements and committees, as well as involve industry in policy development and oversight of the performance of the VET sector, at its inaugural meeting on 3 April 2014.

As a result, the Industry and Skills Council Advisory Committee will be established to provide industry with a formal role in relation to policy directions and decision making in the national training system.

In addition, the National Skills Standard Council (NSSC) has been dissolved and its ongoing functions will be delegated to industry representatives and selected senior officials through the Industry and Skills Council Advisory Committee.

It is expected that the new Committee will begin functioning in mid-2014.

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

SENATE REPORT – TECHNICAL AND FURTHER EDUCATION IN AUSTRALIA

On 11 December 2013, the Senate referred the inquiry into technical and further education in Australia to the Education and Employment References Committee for inquiry and report by 13 May 2014.

The report has been released and represents the results of an inquiry into the affordability, accessibility, sustainability, and effectiveness of technical and further education in Australia.

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

COMMONWEALTH VETiS REFORM PROCESS

The new Standing Council on School Education and Early Childhood met in April 2014 to discuss further reforms in the school education sector.

The Standing Council (under COAG arrangements) has agreed to update the existing Vocational Education and Training in Schools Framework 2001 to ensure it reflects the current context.

Council agreed to establish a working group with representation from states and territories, other education authorities, the training sector and industry to develop a new national framework for consideration by Ministers in August 2014.

To view the Standing Council on School Education and Early Childhood communique, please click [here](#).

2014 FEDERAL BUDGET: EMPLOYER INCENTIVE TO HIRE MATURE AGED WORKERS

The Australian Government has proposed a rise in the pension age to 70 in the recent May 2014 Federal Budget.

Additionally, the Federal Budget has proposed to expand the Abbott Government's Restart Program – whereby employers will be offered up to \$10,000 to hire mature aged workers.

These proposals are still to be approved by the Senate.

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT FUND TO CLOSE

As part of the 2014 Federal Budget in May 2014, the Government announced that the National Workforce Development Fund will close.

Applications submitted under the National Workforce Development Fund on or before 21 March 2014 will be progressed and if approved for funding will be supported through existing arrangements.

There is no impact on existing projects and training funded through these projects. Current contracts will be honoured through existing arrangements with the Industry Skills Councils.

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

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