



RAPS

NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2014

RAPS REGIONAL VISIT

RAPS has recently carried out a regional visit to the Pilbara towns of Karratha, Port Hedland and South Hedland and gained valuable information from major stakeholders on training and workforce development needs.

RAPS WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT & BUSINESS NEEDS EMPLOYER SURVEY

RAPS understands how valuable your time is, but would very much appreciate you completing the **employer** survey at the following link: [RAPS Employer Survey 2015](#)

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

MINISTER'S RESPONSE TO THE VOCATIONAL EDUCATION AND TRAINING SECTOR REVIEW

The Department of Training and Workforce Development (DTWD) has recently released Minister, Dr Kim Hames MLA's response to each of the recommendations provided in the Independent Review of the Vocational Education and Training (VET) Sector in Western Australia report.

The Review's final report was provided to the Minister and was released for public comment, which ended on 11 July 2014.

The Minister has considered the Review report and recommendations as well as the stakeholder feedback received through the public period comment.

To view the Minister's response to the recommendations please click [here](#).

SKILLING WA SECOND EDITION RELEASED

In response to the State's emerging economic and labour market challenges since the release of the original *Skilling WA*, the State Government has developed and recently released the second edition of *Skilling WA*.

This second edition outlines the strategic direction to further build on the work of the first edition and provides the framework for the delivery of workforce planning and development in WA. *Skilling WA, second edition* identifies five strategic goals, 25 areas of strategic focus, and 88 priority actions.

For more information and to view the second edition of *Skilling WA* please click [here](#).

REVIEW OF THE VOCATIONAL EDUCATION AND TRAINING ACT 1996

The Department of Training and Workforce Development (DTWD) is currently conducting a review of the Vocational Education and Training Act 1996 (VET Act), as required every five years under State legislation.

The VET Act sets out the vocational education and training system for the State. It establishes the basis for governance of the system and various bodies to do this. It also provides mechanisms to ensure a State training system that meets the needs of industry and the community.

To participate in the review process, please refer to the submission guide on the DTWD's [website](#) and follow the instructions. Submissions can be made to the DTWD by email or post, as outlined in the guide.

Submissions close 5.00pm, 27 February 2015.

For further information on the review process please contact the DTWD by email at VETActReview@dtwd.wa.gov.au or telephone 6551 5512.

SUPPORT GRANTS LAUNCHED FOR REGIONAL BUSINESSES

State Government grants of up to \$25,000 are now available to help regional businesses improve their competitiveness and engage with major projects in Western Australia.

Commerce Minister, the Hon. Michael Mischin MLC stated that the second regional round of the Industry Facilitation and Support Program (IFSP) would enable eligible small to medium-sized businesses to apply for up to \$25,000 in matched funding through the State Government's Royalties for Regions program.

A total of \$400,000 was awarded to 31 companies in the first round, resulting in the creation of more than 20 new jobs, six apprenticeship positions and generating almost 70 contracts worth more than \$21 million.

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

VET IN SCHOOLS STRATEGIC INDUSTRY AUDIT REPORT

The Training Accreditation Council (TAC) undertook a strategic industry audit into the delivery of VET in Schools (VETiS) within Western Australia in early 2014.

TAC undertakes strategic industry audits (SIAs) to confirm registered training organisations (RTOs) delivering training and assessment services are meeting the requirements of the Australian Quality Training Framework (AQTF) Essential Conditions and Standards for Continuing Registration and to provide an overview of activity and quality of delivery within a specific industry area for key stakeholders.

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

WORKPLACE ESSENTIALS ATTRACTION AND RETENTION PUBLICATION

The Workplace Essentials website provides small to medium businesses with a 'one-stop' gateway to find useful information, templates, links and resources that can help them to better plan, attract, develop and retain a skilled workforce.

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

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

HEDLAND CAMPUS CONSOLIDATION DRAFT FEASIBILITY STUDY

The Department of Training and Workforce Development (DTWD) and Pilbara Institute engaged TPG Town Planning, Urban Design and Heritage to assist in the development of a draft feasibility study that examines training options for Hedland.

The draft study proposes the consolidation of South Hedland and Pundulmurra campuses to create a single, industry standard facility.

The aim of the draft study is to provide quality training facilities that better meet the expectations of industry and provide modern and industry relevant facilities to enhance vocational education and training in the Pilbara.

To view the Draft Hedland Campus consolidation feasibility report please click [here](#). Comments on the draft study are welcome. If you would like to provide feedback, please email the DTWD at Hedlandsubmissions@dtwd.wa.gov.au.

The comment and submissions period closes on Friday 5 December 2014.

THE WORKFORCE AND SKILLS: WESTERN AUSTRALIAN LABOUR MARKETS IN TRANSITION REPORT RELEASED

The Bankwest Curtin Economics Centre recently released the *Workforce and Skills: Western Australian labour markets in transition* report, which explores the trajectory of the WA labour market. Ranging from skills and education to the work, wellbeing and happiness of WA workers, the report provides an overall picture of WA's workforce.

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

NATIONAL NEWS

UNIQUE STUDENT IDENTIFIER ACTIVATED

On 15 October, the Minister for Industry, the Hon. Ian Macfarlane MP, announced that the Unique Student Identifier (USI) registry system has been activated. This will allow training organisations and students to create a USI.

Training organisations now have the opportunity to establish access arrangements and business processes for using USIs prior to the formal commencement of the scheme in January 2015.

A new website has been created providing a one-stop shop for students, training organisations and systems developers. The website includes:

- USI information for students
- directions on how students can create USIs
- information for training organisations about how the USI initiative works
- directions on how training organisations can create USIs on behalf of students
- information for systems developers
- support material for training organisations
- a new USI Help Centre

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

NEW STANDARDS FOR RTOS AND REGULATORS

Ministers at the Council of Australian Governments (COAG) Industry and Skills Council meeting on 26 September 2014 agreed to new regulatory Standards for training providers and regulators.

The key changes in the new standards for RTOs include:

- ensuring a greater role for industry by strengthening requirements for providers to engage with industry and use the outcomes from this engagement to inform the way they deliver training and assessment
- increasing consumer protections by strengthening requirements around marketing training courses and the type of information to be provided to consumers so that they can make informed decisions about their training
- holding the RTO responsible for any third party arrangements where training and assessment and the recruitment of students are conducted on their behalf
- stronger qualification requirements for trainers and assessors and the delivery of training and assessment qualifications.

The new Standards will come into effect from 1 January 2015 and transition arrangements will apply.

To view the Standards for RTOs please click [here](#).

To view the Standards for VET Regulators, please click [here](#).

INDUSTRY INNOVATION AND COMPETITIVENESS AGENDA

On 14 October, the Prime Minister, the Hon. Tony Abbott MP launched the Australian Government's Industry Innovation and Competitiveness Agenda.

The Government seeks to achieve four overarching ambitions in the Agenda:

- a lower cost, business friendly environment with less regulation, lower taxes and more competitive markets,

- a more skilled and flexible labour force,
- better economic infrastructure; and
- industry policy that fosters innovation and entrepreneurship

According to the Government, the VET sector will play a central role in their vision to create a stronger economy, boosting Australia's productivity and competitiveness by producing workers with the skills employers need.

For further information on VET reform as part of the Industry Innovation and Competitiveness Agenda, please click [here](#).

REVIEW OF TRAINING PACKAGES AND ACCREDITED COURSES DISCUSSION PAPER RELEASED

The Minister for Industry, the Hon. Ian Macfarlane MP, has recently released two discussion papers for consultation.

The *Review of Training Packages and Accredited Courses* discussion paper is designed to start the conversation with industry, employers, training providers and students about whether training packages and accredited courses are meeting their needs and the needs of the economy more broadly.

To view the *Review of Training Packages and Accredited Courses* discussion paper please click [here](#).

The *Industry Engagement in Training Package – Towards a Contestable Model* discussion paper, seeks views and suggestions about contestable approaches to the development and maintenance of training packages.

To view the *Industry Engagement in Training Package – Towards a Contestable Model* discussion paper please click [here](#).

IMPROVEMENTS TO NATIONAL HAIRDRESSING QUALIFICATIONS: RECOMMENDED ACTIONS REPORT NOW AVAILABLE

Service Skills Australia has recently released the *Improvements to national hairdressing qualifications: Recommended actions* report. The report provides a summary of the feedback gathered through the Hairdressing industry consultation activities that took place in September and October.

Drawing on industry feedback and current policies, the report makes recommendations for improving the training package to ensure the best outcomes for employers, employees, students and training organisations.

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

APPRENTICES TAKE UP LOANS PROGRAM

According to TAFE Directors Australia, a total of 9,500 apprentices have taken up loans over the past three months under the Federal Government's new Trade Support Loans program.

Industry Minister, the Hon. Ian Macfarlane MP, said the number was further proof that the Government's VET reform was making an impact.

The Trade Support Loans program commenced in August and replaced the Tools for Your Trade program.

It provides a loan of up to \$20,000 over the course of an apprenticeship, which is discounted by 20% on completion and is repayable when an apprentice starts earning above \$50,000.

ESSENTIAL TIPS AND TOOLS FOR SMALL BUSINESSES – WEBINAR VIDEO

On 22 October, the Australian Competition Commission, Australian Securities and Investments Commission, Australian Taxation Office and the Fair Work Ombudsman took part in the free interactive 'Essential tips and tools for small business' webinar.

The webinar included presentations from the four government agencies and a question-and-answer panel session. Some of the topics and questions covered during the webinar included:

- reducing red tape for small business
- claiming tax deductions for business set-up costs
- understanding the pros and cons of buying a franchise as opposed to setting up a new business
- how to keep up to date with regulatory changes using digital channels.

If you would like to learn more about some of the key rights and responsibilities small businesses have under Australian law and the government tools available to help small businesses save effort, time and money, please click [here](#).

SERVICE SKILLS AUSTRALIA ONLINE RETAILING PROJECT

Service Skills Australia has identified the need to expand the skills of the country's retail workforce through retail specific projects. The Online Retailing project is an example of this.

This project, convened with the support of key industry associations, will inform the development of industry driven, national recognised training programs designed to produce a pool of talented online retailers.

During November, two online retailing forums were held to explore what skills were needed for businesses and individuals to operate successfully in the online and new retail environment.

Representatives from a range of retail businesses attended the forums, including Stylerunner, 7eleven, Myer, Birds Nest, Woolworths, Ice Online, The Co-Op and Just Group.

A pilot is due to commence in early 2015 to engage retailers and their employees in training prior to official endorsement of the training products.

For more information please contact Lauren Hosking on lhosking@serviceskills.com.au

2014 AUSTRALIAN TRAINING AWARDS

The Australian Training Awards presentation dinner was held at the Adelaide Convention Centre on 21 November 2014.

RAPS would like to congratulate the following West Australian individuals and organisation for their achievement:

- ❖ Central Institute of Technology – Winner of the International Training Provider of the Year Award
- ❖ Kathryn Schache (West Coast Institute) – Runner Up for the VET Teacher/Trainer of the Year Award
- ❖ Emma Hay – Runner Up for the Australian Apprentice (Trainee) of the Year Award
- ❖ Taylor Wood – Runner Up for the Australian School-based Apprentice of the Year Award

All 2014 winners can be viewed on the Australian Training Awards [website](#).

RAPS Board of Management and Staff would like to thank everyone for their support over the year, and wish you and your family a Merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year!



RAPS CONTACTS

Norma Roberts	Executive Director	norma@rapstc.com.au
Jane Piercey	Project Officer	jane@rapstc.com.au
Tanvi Shah	Research Officer	tanvi@rapstc.com.au
David Ingram	Industry Consultant	david@rapstc.com.au

Ph: 08 9446 8177

Fax: 9446 8611