

# Skills Tasmania Facts

Skills Tasmania

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## Reminder to Group Training Organisations

### Consultations regarding Review of the National Standards for Group Training Organisations

The Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations (DEEWR) has commissioned a review of the currency and effectiveness of the *National Standards for Group Training Organisations*. The National Standards were last reviewed in 2005 (minor changes effective from 1 January 2006).

The aim is to develop an optimal model for the quality management of Group Training Organisations (GTOs) that meets the needs of all Group Training stakeholders.

The review involves an extensive consultation process with GTOs, Group Training Australia (GTA), industry representatives, the Australian Government, State Training Authorities (including regulators) and auditors of GTOs.

Engagement with key stakeholders who have in-depth knowledge of the core business of group training, quality arrangements and current trends in performance management frameworks is critical, given the diversity of GTO businesses.

A Discussion Paper has been prepared to guide these consultations and has been designed to 'open up' the debate on a range of models for assuring quality in the group training industry today.

A Response Form listing all the questions contained in the Discussion Paper is available for stakeholders unable to attend the consultations. If you have not received the Discussion Paper or the Response Form, please email a request to [info@gstandardsreview.com.au](mailto:info@gstandardsreview.com.au). Responses should be emailed to this address. Skills Tasmania encourages your input to this consultation process.

A team of consultants has been engaged to undertake the Review and will be holding the Tasmanian Consultation. Details are as follows:

**Wednesday, 26 November 2008** (from 9.00am to 11.00am)  
Mercure Hotel (Bathurst Room), 156 Bathurst Street, **Hobart**

### Dates for your Diary

- 26 Nov Consultations regarding Review of the National Standards for Group Training Organisations (Hobart)
- 27 Nov Showcasing Innovation in Tasmanian Training, including Tasmanian Skills Strategy Launch (Hobart)
- 28 Nov E-learning Professional Development Opportunity (Hobart)

There are still places available, so to RSVP or discuss any issues regarding the consultation process, please contact Gillian McGuinness, Manager Purchasing and Contract Management at Skills Tasmania on (03) 6233 7234 or email your intent to attend the Tasmanian Consultation to [grouptraining@skills.tas.gov.au](mailto:grouptraining@skills.tas.gov.au) as soon as possible.

## VET Workers Professional Development Program 2008 Summary

The 2008 vocational education and training (VET) professional development program has now concluded. The program, which included 28 workshops, was attended by 362 people from 60 different registered training organisations (RTOs). That means that around half of our RTOs are regularly supporting this program.

This year we asked RTOs to volunteer their venues for the program. This worked really well with sessions being run in different RTOs, greatly reducing the cost of each training session. Thank you to the following RTOs for providing venues: Work & Training, AMC, Business and Employment, SES, Tas Fire Service, HR Company, On Road Off Road, TCCI, TAFE, Willson Training, Mines and Metals, Calvin School, Student Works, Hobart Water, APW, Injury Prevention, Driver Safety and Rosny College.

We are currently planning the 2009 professional development program and would appreciate any suggestions of topics and potential presenters. Please email ideas to Penny Driessen at [pennyd@bigpond.net.au](mailto:pennyd@bigpond.net.au).

## RTO Census Update

Stage I of the project, the Census data collection phase, has finished. This is a first in Australia and Skills Tasmania, particularly for the Capability Building team of Skills Tasmania, who would like to extend their appreciation to all registered training organisations (RTOs) who participated. The return rate of 95% is impressive. The next stage of the project is to analyse the collected data. Skills Tasmania's Research and Information Services team will develop an initial report for public viewing and then conduct a more detailed analysis. The initial report will be published on the Skills Tasmania website (<http://www.skills.tas.gov.au/rtocensus>) before the end of the year.

The collected data will be used to:

- support, develop and promote the Tasmanian VET industry;
- promote potential and emerging business opportunities for RTOs to access;
- assist government to understand the changing vocational education and training (VET) industry needs;
- assist in resource planning;
- assist with RTO professional development planning; and
- assist with workforce development for the Tasmanian VET workforce.

For more information on the Census project, contact Deb Doherty on (03) 6233 3976 or email [debra.doherty@skills.tas.gov.au](mailto:debra.doherty@skills.tas.gov.au).

## Service Provider "Heads Up" Forum

The recently held service provider forums were a great success. There were approximately 60 participants at the Hobart session, 25 at Burnie and 30 in Launceston.

Feedback from participants was positive. Attendees found Skills Tasmania's presentations relevant and current, and were pleased to have the opportunity to network with others and access to Skills Tasmania staff to discuss individual issues one-on-one. Information on Purchasing Strategy and Productivity Places Program will be made available through *Skills Tasmania Facts* and the Skills Tasmania website as it becomes available.

More forums are planned for next year. The first will be held either late February or early March - check *Skills Tasmania Facts* for details next year. If you want the forums to include particular items, please email them to Chris Johnston at [christopher.johnston@skills.tas.gov.au](mailto:christopher.johnston@skills.tas.gov.au).

Amongst other workshops being considered will be industry specific sessions that will allow service providers to develop stronger links and partnerships with each other. If you think this is worthwhile or want to suggest a particular industry, please let us know.

## Professional Development Opportunity

The final E-learning professional development session for 2008 offers an opportunity to hear two great e-learning practitioners:

- **Michael Coughlin**, a Nationally respected learning practitioner will demonstrate U-stream TV (<http://www.ustream.tv/>) and SlideShare (<http://www.slideshare.net/browse>). These tools are indicative of the new approach to teaching and learning.
- **Jonathon Finklestein**, an international e-learning activist and founder of <http://www.learningtimes.org/> will talk about online facilitation. Jonathan could in fact lay claim to be the most engaging presenter on the planet. He, and LearningTimes have been an integral part of the development of a pool of accomplished facilitators in this country, and indeed, world-wide.

Both speakers are appearing at the e-learning showcase event that's being held the day before, but this provides a more intimate environment to tap the brains of these trailblazers. These should be great sessions. Details are as follows:

28th November 2008 (from 9.30am to 1.30am)  
Hobart (Skills Tasmania, Level 1, 99 Bathurst Street)

As spaces are strictly limited please book at your earliest opportunity through the following link:  
[www.emania.org/?p=55](http://www.emania.org/?p=55)

The session is fully subsidised by the Australian Flexible Learning Framework. For further information or suggestions on workshops for 2009 please contact [elarning@skills.tas.gov.au](mailto:elarning@skills.tas.gov.au) or telephone: (03) 6233 6169.

