

# Skills Tasmania Facts

Skills Tasmania

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Issue 102  
22 Dec 2008

## Skills Tasmania Board Meeting Communiqué – 10 December 2008

The agenda for the final Board meeting for 2008 was packed with intense and important matters for consideration. The scene was set for the day's deliberations by speculating on the potential impact of the current financial and economic crisis on the demand for training. Whilst it was not possible to in any way determine the impact, the Board was mindful of the need for restraint when considering particular matters. For example, the Board had moderated its recommendation on which budget initiatives that Skills Tasmania would submit to the Treasurer. It was also against this backdrop of uncertainty and unpredictability that the Board concluded that Skills Tasmania needs to be able to rapidly respond to changing employer and learner needs. Given the upbeat assessments of the State's economy, the Board's assessment is there is unlikely to be any significant change in the level of demand but there could be changes to the nature of that demand.

The Board stated its intention to work collaboratively with other organisations and agencies to go public with messages about skills for 'tomorrow' to ensure that the state is well equipped to meet the immediate challenges of the expected rapid economic upturn. The theme discussed was 'skills in uncertain times.'

A draft Skills Tasmania Purchasing Plan, 2009-2012, was noted by the Board, which will be considered again at the February 2009 meeting.

The Board examined draft Memoranda of Understanding between Skills Tasmania and two of the Tasmanian Tomorrow institutes, the Polytechnic and the Tasmanian Skills Institute. The memoranda are to reflect the Tasmanian Skills Strategy's performance measures and targets and will prescribe the levels of funding against specified objectives.

Recommendations were developed by the Board to the Minister on the 2008-09 Building and Construction Industry Training Plan and on the findings of a recently conducted review of the Government Building and Construction Training Policy (that requires contractors working on government building projects to employ a requisite number of apprentices, depending on the cost of the project).

### 2009 Dates for your Diary

- 26 Mar Tasmanian Private Provider Network  
– first meeting (Hobart)
- 18-19 May Skills Tasmania Conference 2009  
(Launceston)

The Board approved the appointment of members to the Skills Tasmania Equity Committee.

The major findings of the recently conducted census of Tasmanian registered training organisations were presented to the Board. A detailed report is being developed for the Skills Tasmania Service Provider Committee and those registered training organisations that participated in the census will also receive a copy of the final report.

The Board viewed the website for the Tasmanian Skills Strategy and discussed implementing the Strategy early in 2009. The URL for the website is:  
[www.skills.tas.gov.au/skillstas/tassskillsstrategy](http://www.skills.tas.gov.au/skillstas/tassskillsstrategy)

The Directors inspected the new Indigenous Tasmanian exhibition at the Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery. The exhibition's curator Tony Brown explained the various elements of the exhibition to Directors.

The Premier and Directors joined our major stakeholders in celebrating a successful 2008 for the Board. A feature of the end of year celebration was the attendance by CEOs of the majority of National Industry Skills Councils.

## Reframing the Future to close

2008 will be the final year of Reframing the Future, the national program of professional development and change management to support the implementation of the national training system.

At the Council of Australian Governments (COAG) meeting on 29 November 2008 all state and territory governments and the Australian Government agreed to sign up to a new

National Skills Workforce Development Agreement. Under the new arrangements, funding for some activities and projects under the current agreement is being rolled into the funding base.

Governments agreed that responsibility for vocational education and training (VET) workforce development rests with the states and territories and they will manage this responsibility in line with the specific needs of their jurisdictions.

The Reframing the Future program was an initiative of the State and Territory and Australian Governments and sponsored by the South Australian Department of Further Education, Employment, Science and Technology.

It is noteworthy that through Framing the Future (1997-2000) and Reframing the Future (2001-2008) over 66,000 VET practitioners and enterprise partners participated in 2,200 projects and other activities such as the New Ways of Working in VET Forums and other national forums such as 'RPL- Done Well' and 'Enterprises Enhanced by VET'. A wider community accessed the publications, CDs and other resources available at no cost through the website.

The national project team will implement a communication strategy to inform national training system stakeholders of the closure of the program and will investigate ways to ensure that Reframing the Future publications and other resources on the website will continue to be available to the community.

Program convenors of 2008 projects are encouraged to promptly submit their final reports and invoices.

For further information contact [reframingthefuture@tafesa.edu.au](mailto:reframingthefuture@tafesa.edu.au) or visit [www.reframingthefuture.net](http://www.reframingthefuture.net).

