

Skills Tasmania Facts

Skills Tasmania

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2009 Productivity Places Program

What is the Productivity Places Program?

The Productivity Places Program is a core element of the Australian Government's Skilling Australia for the Future policy. It is a joint initiative between the Australian and State Governments.

The program aims to reduce skills shortages and increase the productivity of industry and enterprises.

Australia wide, for the period of 1 January 2009 to 30 June 2012, 402,881 qualification commencements will be delivered. The program has components for both existing workers and job seekers.

What does this mean for our State? In real terms (through joint funding arrangements), for the 2009 calendar year, there is over **six million dollars** committed to reducing skills shortages and increasing the productivity of industry and enterprises in Tasmania.

What training is available under the Productivity Places Program?

Skills Tasmania will target training that is listed on the Australian Government's phase III Priority Occupations and Qualifications List. This list can be viewed at www.skills.tas.gov.au/providers/purchasing/productivity.

On implementation there may be many ways you are able access this training including:

- A request for tender from registered training organisations (RTOs)/Industry/Enterprises administered by Skills Tasmania
- Industry/enterprise selection of RTOs
- Industry brokerage arrangements
- Preferred provider arrangement
- Direct engagement with enterprises that meet certain eligibility and capability requirements

How can industry/enterprises benefit?

Given our current economic circumstances it is essential for enterprises to take advantage of the opportunities that are available. The list of qualifications that may be funded under this program is extensive and provides opportunities to up-skill or re-skill staff which in turn can bring efficiencies and increase productivity in the workplace.

Dates for your Diary

Feb-Mar	2009 Productivity Places Program info sessions for industry/enterprise (Hobart – 16 Feb, Launceston – 17 Feb). For RTO sessions/other key dates refer to Issue 104 of <i>Skills Tasmania Facts</i> .
17, 19, 24 Feb	Australian Apprenticeships Training Information Service info sessions: Devonport – 17, Launceston – 19, Hobart – 24
5 Mar	Funding for E-learning Innovation (applications close)
23 Mar	AQTF info session (Hobart)
24 Mar	AQTF info session (Launceston)
26 Mar	Tasmanian Private Provider Network – first meeting (Hobart)
2 Apr	Trainer & Assessor Professional Development workshop (Hobart) – date to be confirmed
18-19 May	Skills Tasmania Conference 2009 (Launceston)

How can I find out more information?

There will be a series of workshops taking place during February and March for both RTOs and industry/enterprise. Refer to the Key dates at the end of this article for these, as well as other key dates such as Requests for Tender. The following information sessions have been developed specifically for industry and enterprises (times are approximate):

Monday, 16 February (Hobart) – 10.00am - 12.00pm

Tuesday, 17 February (Launceston) – 10.30am - 12.30pm

The aim of these sessions is to provide information on components of the Productivity Places Program and to help industry identify opportunities the program provides and explore how these opportunities can be realised. It will also promote the benefits that can be gained from forming strong partnerships between enterprises and RTOs based on good workforce planning.

If you would like to attend a session please email emma.gill@skills.tas.gov.au or phone (03) 6233 4570. On receipt of this information your final confirmation of details details (including the venue) will be forwarded onto you. For further information please contact Lee Veitch on lee.veitch@skills.tas.gov.au or phone (03) 6233 7131.

Key dates

Date	Time (approx)	Target Group
16 February	10.00am – 12.00pm	Industry/Enterprise (Hobart)
17 February	10.30am – 12.30pm	Industry/Enterprise (Launceston)
28 February		Request for Tender (TBC)
25 February	10.00am – 3.00pm	Industry Skill Councils
3 March	10.00am – 12.00pm	RTOs (Hobart)
3 March	2.00pm – 4.00pm	Employment Service Providers (Hobart)
4 March	1.30am – 12.30pm	RTOs (Launceston)
4 March	2.00pm – 4.00pm	Employment Service Providers (Launceston)
20 March		Request for Tender Closing (TBC)

Australian Quality Training Framework (AQTF) 2007 Quality Indicators - Information Sessions

The AQTF 2007 Quality Indicators have been designed to assist Registered Training Organisations (RTOs) conduct evidence-based and outcomes-focused continuous quality improvement, and assist registering bodies assess the risk of an RTOs' operations.

Under AQTF 2007, RTOs are required to collect and use data on the following three Quality Indicators which have been endorsed by the National Quality Council (NQC):

- Learner Engagement
- Employer Satisfaction
- Competency Completion

Information sessions overview

Information sessions will be conducted between February and April 2009 to help develop an understanding of the AQTF 2007 Quality Indicators, and associated instruments and collection systems.

These sessions seek to:

- enhance awareness of the AQTF 2007 Quality Indicators;
- build capacity to interpret Quality Indicator data;
- improve strategies for evidence-based continuous improvement; and
- develop competence in survey administration.

Sessions will be led by the Australian Council for Educational Research (ACER) in collaboration with registering bodies.

In addition to the information sessions ACER will provide:

- video conferences;
- teleconferences; and
- an information session video or podcast.

Information sessions details

Each session will be two hours in length.

The sessions assume a working knowledge of the AQTF 2007 Essential Standards for Registration, particularly the role of the Quality Indicators. The sessions will be of most value if participants spend time before the workshops reflecting on their current practice.

Each session will provide an overview of:

- AQTF 2007 and the three Quality Indicators;
- systems and data collection procedures; and
- key reporting and continuous improvement processes.

Details for the Tasmanian sessions are as follows:

Monday, March 23 (Hobart)

(10.00am - 12.00pm or 2.00PM - 4.00PM)

Tuesday, March 24 (Launceston)

(10.00am - 12.00pm or 2.00PM - 4.00PM)

Registration

Each RTO is invited to send up to two representatives who would be best placed to lead subsequent organisational planning and development. Information sessions are free but you must register to attend. To register to attend an information session, visit

<http://aqtf-qi.acer.edu.au/index.php?cmd=register>. For further information visit: <http://www.acer.edu.au/aqtf/>

Trainer & Assessor Professional Development Workshop – date changed!

The Tasmanian Trainer & Assessor Professional Development Workshop, which was advertised in the previous issue of Skills Tasmania Facts for 4 February has been postponed until April. This date will be confirmed closer to the time, but details for now for the Tasmanian workshop are as follows:

Thursday 2 April (Hobart) (TBC) - 9.30am - 4.30pm
Venue (TBC), Cost (\$490 per participant, including GST)

For further information and to register visit:

www.ibsa.org.au/courseDetail.jsp?courseID=15561

Alternatively, contact IBSA on (03) 9815 7000 or email events@ibsa.org.au.

