

Skills Tasmania Facts



Skills Tasmania

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2009 Vocational Education and Training (VET) Workers Professional Development Program

The 2009 VET professional development program has been finalised. We have taken feedback from the Tasmanian Qualifications Authority (TQA), registered training organisations (RTOs) and experts from other states to put together an interesting and diverse program for you. The full program brochure will be mailed to all RTOs in the next few weeks. The program will also be available with more detail on the Skills Tasmania website at

www.skills.tas.gov.au/systemtas/vetpdprogram.

The topics in the 2009 program include: assessment and training delivery strategies and methods, recognition of prior learning (RPL), running a registered training organisation (RTO), knowing what to expect from an Australian Quality Training Framework (AQTF) audit, employability skills, engaging enterprises and much more.

The first lot of workshops, 'What to expect from an AQTF audit', are taking place during March and April:

What to expect from an AQTF audit

TQA Quality Assurance Officers

Find out how to prepare for an audit, types of audits, how audits are conducted, what constitutes evidence, how findings are cleared and what to expect as an auditee. The latest AQTF issues will also be covered. Details are as follows:

19 March	9.30–12.30	Devonport	PD0901
20 March	9.30–12.30	Launceston	PD0902
20 April	9.30–12.30	Hobart	PD0903

Each workshop session is free, but you must register to attend.

Enrol now by emailing pennyd@bigpond.net.au or phoning (03) 6229 6382.

Dates for your Diary

19 Feb	first Tasmanian Flexible Learning Network meeting (Hobart)
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
5-6 Mar	VET Training Products for the 21st Century (5 March - Public session, 6 March - RTO session)
5 Mar	Funding for E-learning Innovation (applications close)
19 Mar	What to expect from an AQTF audit (Devonport)
20 Mar	What to expect from an AQTF audit (Launceston)
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
20 Apr	What to expect from an AQTF audit (Hobart)
18-19 May	Skills Tasmania Conference 2009 (Launceston)

Tourism and Hospitality Employees Survey

Many young people gain their first taste of work experience and employment in the tourism and hospitality industry. For some young people it can be an enriching and rewarding experience, but for others it can be a harmful stumbling block on the road to permanent work and adulthood. From the perspective of employers, they have long recognised that staff turnover rates and difficulty with recruiting staff are a major cost and challenge for the industry.

To better understand employment perceptions and practices a pilot survey is to be conducted in February 2009 which will look at the attitudes and intentions of employees working in the tourism and hospitality industry. The survey, organised through

the Southern Tasmanian Youth Transitions Taskforce, is funded by Skills Tasmania with support from the Tourism Industry Council of Tasmania. This will be the first time a survey of this nature directed at the tourism industry has been conducted in the state.

Data collected from the survey is expected to be available in March and will be analysed to provide information for an industry employment overview. Results will first be considered by the Industry Workforce Initiative, which has advised the Taskforce and includes representatives from Tourism Tasmania, the Tourism Council, University of Tasmania (UTAS), Drysdale Institute, Skills Tasmania and a number of young hospitality employees, and is chaired by Toni Brown from the Federal Group and a member of the Taskforce Management Committee. The findings will then be presented and discussed in a broader tourism and hospitality forum.

The Taskforce is extremely hopeful that the survey will provide valuable information for workforce planning and development that will greatly assist the tourism and hospitality industry and ensure that people entering the industry will have positive and meaningful employment experiences which will help build their futures.

For further information please contact Gerry White (Project Manager, Southern Tasmanian Youth Transitions Taskforce) on (03) 6270 2242 or email gwhite@stca.tas.gov.au.

Tasmanian Flexible Learning Network – 2009 dates

The Tasmanian Flexible Learning Network (TFLN) provides an excellent opportunity for like-minded people to meet with one another and discuss the many aspects of e-learning. It also aims to deliver practical, useful and timely advice to those interested in using new technologies in their delivery.

TFLN will be running face-to-face network meetings every six weeks, which will include guest speakers to stimulate discussion. New for 2009, the meetings will be streamed live on UStream TV where people wishing to be involved can jump on-line and participate, making it truly state-wide!

The 2009 program is still being developed, however some of the topics it is hoped will be covered include: making toolboxes work for you; building on-line communities; accessing free and open source software; and tracking on-line identities, just to name a few. The Network is also happy to hear other suggestions for topics you may have an interest in.

The meetings will run for one hour, generally made up of a 15 minute presentation and a 45 minute group discussion, and will be held in the Skills Tasmania boardroom at 1/99 Bathurst Street, Hobart. Light refreshments, tea and coffee will be provided.

For people intending to join in via UStream TV there may be some issues for you around firewall access, so please let us know if you have any difficulties. All sessions will be recorded and available via a link on <http://emania.org/>.

Details for the Network meetings are as follows:

- **19 February** (4.00–5.00)
Robin Petterd will discuss the characteristics of a successful Innovation Project, a must for those interested in applying for funding in 2009. Follow the link www.ustream.tv/channel/tasmanian-flexible-learning-network to access via UStream TV.
- **1 April** (8am–9am)
- **14 May** (4pm–5pm)
- **24 June** (8am–9am)
- **6 August** (4pm–5pm)
- **16 September** (8am–9am)
- **29 October** (4pm–5pm)
- **10 December** (12noon–2pm)

There are limited spots available in the boardroom so if you are intending to come along for the meeting on 19 February please register by e-mailing fiona.huskinson@skills.tas.gov.au by 18 February 2009.

For any questions, please do not hesitate to contact any of the e-learning coordinators or e-mail elarning@skills.tas.gov.au.

Vocational Education and Training (VET) Training Products for the 21st Century

'VET Training Products for the 21st Century' is a joint Council of Australian Governments (COAG) and National Quality Council (NQC) initiative, which aims to identify future directions for VET training products to align them with current needs. The Joint COAG/NQC Steering Committee is keen to hear people's views about issues dealing with definitions of competence, VET qualifications, Training Packages and credit systems.

A team of consultants led by Australia's National Centre for Vocational Education Research (NCVER) has been contracted to conduct a short, but intensive, series of consultations and public workshops across the country. The consultants comprise Hugh Guthrie of NCVER, Professor Rod McDonald of the Ithaca Group and Paul Byrne OAM, as well as a range of other experienced and recognised VET experts. They are due to provide a final report based on an analysis of the consultation outcomes to the COAG/NQC Joint Steering Committee by April 2009.

Two sessions are being held in Hobart at the Mercure Hotel (156 Bathurst Street):

5 March (Public session) 1pm–5pm

6 March (RTO session) 9am–1pm

For more information or to register visit:

www.nqc.tvetaustralia.com.au/vet_training_products_for_the_21st_century

Skills Tasmania Board Meeting Communiqué - 11 February 2009

The Board considered a wide variety of matters at its meeting. Amongst the matters discussed were the following:

- Skills development in uncertain times was discussed by the Board. It proposed to mount campaigns encouraging employers to pursue options in difficult times that would appeal to their bottom line and would prepare them well for the inevitable economic upturn. The Board will advise the Minister of these actions.
- The Board considered a proposal to implement a structured, transparent decision process for determining the appropriate response to demands for government investment in skills development. The process will show when government (as opposed to employers or individuals) has a responsibility and whether government training funds should be invested. The Board asked for demonstration pilots to be presented to its April meeting.
- Board Director and Chair of the Skills Tasmania Service Provider Committee, Paul Roberts-Thomson, informed the meeting of the work and achievements to date of the Committee. Paul highlighted the registered training organisation (RTO) Census and recently undertaken Training Delivery Project as major works that will inform the Committee and the Board on actions that should be taken to address quality and purchasing issues. Paul also highlighted the perceived value of the Skills Tasmania Vocational Education and Training (VET) Workers Professional Development Program. He outlined the direction that the Committee was taking in developing value chains for the VET sector.
- Department of Education Secretary, John Smyth, outlined the Minister's vision for education and skills in Tasmania for the 2009-2012 period. Six 'improvement priorities' are the centrepiece: the two critical priorities for Skills Tasmania are 'Attainment' and 'Productive'. John talked about aspirations for the Tasmanian education sector by contrasting the Canadian education system where reading rates are consistently higher than the best Australian results. Unlike Australia, Canada does not exhibit reading rates that vary across socio-economic groups.
- The Skills Tasmania Purchasing Plan for 2009-2012 was considered by the Board. The Plan includes Commonwealth-funded programs that were previously nationally based but have now been redistributed to states. The Plan is to be modified to take into account known budgetary implications due to the financial situation.
- The Board noted the progress that had been made by Skills Tasmania in its negotiations with the Polytechnic and the Tasmanian Skills Institute in developing memoranda of understanding for purchasing services.
- A proposal by the Commonwealth Government for the State Government to assume responsibility for Australian Apprenticeships Services was considered by the Board. The Board was enthusiastic about the proposal and Skills Tasmania will further examine the matter, particularly the implications and opportunities.
- The Tasmanian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (TCCI) is keen to work with Skills Tasmania in establishing an Apprenticeships Roundtable. A joint proposal is to be developed by the TCCI and Skills Tasmania for consideration at the April Board meeting.
- The Chair, David Hind, reported to the Board on the Bradley Review on Higher Education, highlighting some potential impacts on the VET Sector. David also reported on activities of Skills Australia, including its facilitation of an imminent meeting including State Training Authority Chairs and Industry Skills Councils.
- The Skills Tasmania Board approved delegations to specific Skills Tasmania staff for exercising a range of powers of the Tasmanian Training Agreements Committee (TTAC).
- The Board was briefed on how Skills Tasmania should manage *ad hoc* requests for funding. Guidelines are being developed.

It is proposed the next meeting of the Board on 15 April 2009 include a joint meeting with the TCCI Board.

