

Skills Tasmania Facts

Skills Tasmania

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Professional Development Workshops in July 2009:

Responding to the individual needs

Presenter: Russell Docking

All students are individuals, with their own backgrounds, learning styles, motives and capabilities. The Australian Quality Training Framework (AQTF) requires us to provide training, assessment and support services that meet their individual needs (2.4), and Federal legislation requires that we make reasonable adjustments for students with a defined disability to facilitate their successful participation in education, training and employment. This half-day workshop will assist assessors to support candidates with a range of needs through assessment adjustments that meet Training Package and AQTF requirements and that are reasonable for the Registered Training Organisation (RTO) and for the candidate.

Uncomplicated strategies for developing competency assessment

Presenter: Russell Docking

Competency-based assessment can become convoluted, complicated and contentious. This half-day workshop will help assessors to rethink their assessment strategies to develop Training Package and AQTF compliant assessment policies, procedures and systems that are simple, efficient and flexible by revisiting the fundamentals of competency-based assessment, including recognition of prior learning (RPL). The workshop builds upon the latest reviews of competency-based assessment and the experiences of RTOs developing assessment strategies for current Training Packages.

Making the AQTF work for you

Presenter: Russell Docking

The AQTF 2007 heralded a new approach to quality, focussing on outcomes rather than inputs. Observations across Australia suggest the opportunity for flexibility and innovation arising from this change has not been fully realised by RTOs. This full-day workshop will explore the opportunities and constraints of the AQTF environment through an analysis of the AQTF requirements and their implications for service delivery, client support, RTO management and continuous improvement. Participants are encouraged to share their experiences of both the barriers and the bonuses offered by the AQTF.

Dates for your Diary

- 24 Jun Tasmanian Flexible Learning Network (Hobart) (RSVP by 19 June)
- 25 Jun Continuous Improvement (Hobart)
- 6,9 Jul Making the AQTF work for you – Launceston (6th), Hobart (9th)
- 7,10 Jul Responding to the individual needs – Launceston (7th), Hobart (10th)
- 7,10 Jul Uncomplicated strategies for developing competency assessment – Launceston (7th), Hobart (10th)
- 28 Aug 2009 Tasmanian Training Awards presented (Hobart)

About the presenter

Russell Docking has been conducting workshops on competency-based training and assessment throughout Australia since 1990. He's contributed to the on-going development of competency-based strategies through commissioned research, workshops, conferences, review and evaluation projects, journal publications and the preparation of a number of texts for the WA Department of Education and Training on competency-based assessment, assessment validation, and reasonable adjustment in assessment for students with disability. Russell keeps in close touch with practitioner needs and concerns through his work as an RTO auditor and as an accreditation reviewer for the WA Training Accreditation Council.

Responding to the individual needs	7 July (9.30 - 12.30)	Launceston	\$100	PD0910
	10 July (9.30 - 12.30)	Hobart	\$100	PD0911
Uncomplicated strategies for developing competency assessment	7 July (1.30 - 4.30)	Launceston	\$100	PD0912
	10 July (1.30 - 4.30)	Hobart	\$100	PD0913
Making the AQTF work for you	6 July (9.30 - 3.30)	Launceston	\$150	PD0914
	9 July (9.30 - 3.30)	Hobart	\$150	PD0915

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Skills Tasmania Board Communiqué

Meeting of 10 June 2009

In reviewing matters previously considered by the Board, the Board was advised that the Commonwealth's offer for States and Territories to assume management of apprenticeships services had been withdrawn. This means current Australian Apprenticeships Services' contracts will continue until September 2011. States will have the opportunity for input into extension of the contracts, particularly in fostering more co-operative relationships between Australian Apprenticeship Centres and state agencies.

The Tasmanian Training Agreements Committee (TTAC) Chair, Kim Barker, was the first Skills Tasmania Committee Chair to formally brief the Board on its activities. Each of the four Board committees will make such presentations annually. Ms Barker detailed the current committee membership, major issues, achievements and future challenges. She highlighted how streamlined business processes, effective delegations, policies and procedures have resulted in greater efficiencies for TTAC and the apprenticeship and traineeship systems.

The Board developed advice for Minister Bartlett for the forthcoming Ministerial Council for Vocational and Technical Education meeting, held in Hobart on 12 June, on matters relating to governance, regulation, VET reform and industry advice as it relates to the national VET system.

Similarly, the Board agreed to provide the Minister with policy advice on Tasmania's position in relation to VET reform. The major elements are: a client-centred training system; the ideal Tasmanian training market; Tasmanian priorities for skills development; competition and choice; workforce development, a new approach; the roles of the Commonwealth and Tasmania; and national training system governance arrangements.

The Board noted the 2009-10 Building and Construction Industry Training Board Training Plan and will forward the Plan to the Minister for his approval.

The Board agreed to sign a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with Skills Australia. The MOU sets out a framework for cooperation between Skills Tasmania and Skills Australia in collecting information and advice to assist the development of a collaborative, coordinated and industry-led approach to workforce development as part of the national system.

The Board adopted a Capability Building Policy aimed at supporting VET service providers. This is the second in a suite of policies to be adopted by the Board. The Board had previously adopted an industry policy and will also develop a policy around purchasing training and a policy to individual learners. The Capability Building Policy's objectives are that: Skills Tasmania understands the role of service providers and the business environment in which service providers operate; providers are aware of the range, types and flexibility of products to meet the needs of clients; RTOs are innovative and promote innovative practices to their clients; good relationships exist between various types of service providers; sound partnerships exist between enterprises, service providers and government to support our economy; a modern business environment for transacting business; freeing up service providers to

concentrate on their core activities; and a high level of collaboration between agencies to ensure provision quality programs and service.

The Board agreed to adopt a skills response decision making tool, demonstrated by the developers at the previous Board meeting. The developers demonstrated how the tool can be applied to the real world with two case studies; one in the contact centre industry; and the other in the agri-food industry. This tool will provide Skills Tasmania with an extremely effective, transparent and powerful process for decision making on the allocation of funding to skills development.

The recommendation by the Board to the Minister to sequentially lift current quarantined funding arrangements for particular trade training areas was reviewed in light of the global financial crisis. The Board reaffirmed its decision for the quarantine arrangements to be lifted.

The Board had preliminary discussions on the introduction of income contingent loans for higher-level VET qualifications (similar to HECS fees in the higher education sector). The Board requested Skills Tasmania staff to develop a business case to support such a scheme, highlighting the potential impact, including possible unintended consequences.

Board Director and Chair of the Skills Tasmania Equity Committee, Simon Cocker reported on the very successful inaugural meeting of that Committee held on 6 May. Discussions at that meeting focused on: the role of the Equity Committee and its 2009 work plan; and recognising and responding to disadvantage. As a result of these discussions, the equity policy and equity plan will be reviewed.

The Board examined an evaluation report on the Productivity Through Partnerships Program, managed by the Tourism Industry Council Tasmania and funded by Skills Tasmania. The report detailed a variety of experiences by small tourism operators, highlighting several outstanding success stories. The Board indicated its strong interest in funding two other distinctly different pilot projects under this banner.

The Board Chair, David Hind, reported on the successful Skills Tasmania conference, his meeting with Minister Bartlett and meetings with Chairs of the Tasmanian Skills Institute, Academy, Polytechnic and the Tasmanian Qualifications Authority (there will be regular meetings of these Chairs in future).

The Board also considered ways that it may contribute to cutting costs given the tightening budgetary position of Skills Tasmania. Whilst the Board considered that it should maintain its six meetings per year, it will be mindful of decreasing resources within Skills Tasmania in making requests and issuing directions.

The next Board meeting will be held on 28 August, prior to the Tasmanian Training Awards that will be held that evening at Wrest Point.

