



## Star Rating Scheme for RTO's gets trial

Hot on the heels of its high-profile launch, the Institute for Trade Skills Excellence announced that trials for its Provider Excellence Scheme are underway.

The Star Rating Scheme will help promote the quality of vocational and technical training across Australia by recognising high-performing private and public Registered Training Organisations (RTOs).

This will be achieved by evaluating training providers and recognising excellence in trade skills training with a one, two or three star rating.

These Star Ratings will be granted to RTOs who have been voluntarily assessed and evaluated by one of the Institute's eight Industry Reference Groups (IRG).

The IRGs span across the automotive, building and construction, electrical, hospitality and personal services, manufacturing, metals and engineering, mineral resources, and rural and farming sectors.

"The Provider Excellence Scheme (Star Rating Scheme) will recognise high-performing RTOs, providing employers, career counsellors, parents and students with a helpful, easily-understood guideline as to the quality of Institutions within their field of interest," said Brian Wexham, chief executive officer of the Institute for Trade Skills Excellence.

The scheme will arm both students and employers with the knowledge of training quality available from a particular industry area in an RTO.

The trials involve both TAFE Institutes and Private Training Providers, with some trials already wrapped up.

The Institute for Trade Skills Excellence has also invited a further 100 RTOs looking to participate in the trials.

The application process involves an initial self-evaluation followed by a site visit from lead evaluators and industry experts.

Schools and faculties of RTOs will be assessed against three broad criteria developed in partnership with businesses that employ tradespeople. ■