



# Trade wind blows hot

**U**NIVERSITY was seen for many years as the best pathway to a successful career.

As a result, a trade was often viewed as a fallback rather than a legitimate alternative to university.

A new website is trying to change that perception and increase the number of people starting a trade.

SkillsOne television and the website [skillsone.com.au](http://skillsone.com.au) are encouraging young Australian school-leavers to realise uni is not the only pathway to a long and successful career.

Brian Wexham, chief executive of the associated industry-backed Institute of Trade Skills Excellence, says the campaign supports the need for more trade apprentices and vocational skills.

"There has been a lapse during the past 10 to 15, even 20 years, and that now has to be addressed," Wexham says.

"I don't think people have

valued vocational education in the same way they have valued university education, in the sense that university is seen as the pinnacle and vocational training is seen as a second choice. And it should not be.

"It should be viewed as an equal choice. There are different skill sets. Not everyone is academic and nor should they be."

The Institute for Trade Skills Excellence estimates in the next five years Australia will have 200,000 more jobs than people to fill them.

Hour-long SkillsOne television programs go to air on Foxtel's Aurora channel at 9am and 5pm Monday to Friday, as well as in a four-hour block between 2pm and 6pm at weekends.

A job-search facility on the website operates in partnership with [careerone.com.au](http://careerone.com.au)

Visit [www.skillsone.com](http://www.skillsone.com)