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Factsheet

Purpose The Institute for Trade Skills Excellence promotes and advances learning, teaching and training in Australian trades education and elevates the status of traditional trades and trades education as a career choice.

The Institute is an Industry led, Government body that promotes the advancement of learning, teaching and training in Australian trades education. The Institute is owned through its key stakeholders Australian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ACCI), the Australian Industry Group (AIG) and the National Farmers Federation (NFF).

Strategies The Institute for Trade Skills Excellence will achieve its vision and purpose through:

1. Developing strategies to improve the profile and status of trades and encourage the recognition of the importance of trades in the general community;
2. Recognising high performing registered training organisations (RTOs) with preferred provider status;
3. Fostering and recognising excellent standards and teaching in trades education and training, in areas of skills shortage represented by the Industry Reference Groups.

Improve the profile and status of trades

The Institute will develop promotional and marketing strategies to improve the profile and status of trades in the general community. These strategies will contribute to the Australian Government's effort to change cultural values in relation to traditional trades training among employers, training providers and the general community. They will aim to make trades a career of choice.

Therefore, the Institute's promotional and marketing strategies will complement the National Training System and promote other Australian Government initiatives including, Australian Apprenticeships, and appropriate VTE pathways to gain qualifications in specified trades in the Industry Reference Group areas.

The Institute's promotional and marketing strategies will be targeted in areas of skills shortage represented by the Institute's Industry Reference Groups. They will focus on key providers, decision makers and influencers of career choice, including employers, individual enterprises, students, RTOs, career guidance staff, teachers and trainers.

Recognise high performing RTOs

Through the mechanisms established within the National Training Framework, the job-related outcomes required by particular occupations are now defined by industry. Industry

also makes decisions about assessment criteria, and about how outcomes at different levels contribute towards qualifications within the Australian Qualifications Framework. These are incorporated in national Training Packages.

However, industry has little or no influence over the quality of delivery of training, and there is a view among some employers that despite having influence over content, the quality of training and assessment is not of the standard that they require.

The Institute will address this issue through creating a unique, voluntary system to support employers and provide guidance in the VTE market place. The proposed Preferred Provider scheme will be a mechanism through which industry can endorse or rate the quality of training and assessment of the various industry-based areas of a training provider. The rating will focus on excellence not compliance.

The Institute's Preferred Provider guidelines to recognise high performing RTOs will align with the elements of the Excellence Framework and the new quality standards and outcomes-based audit arrangements developed by the National Quality Council. In keeping with its principles for transparency the Institute will publish full details of RTOs awarded preferred provider status.

Recognising excellence in teaching in trades education.

There are currently various ways in which excellence is recognised in Australian VTE: the national training awards recognise outstanding achievements by apprentices and trainees, they award excellence in training provision, and they award employers who are successful in training. Further, each industry awards excellence through industry awards nights, mainly focused on employers and employees.

While the awards landscape is crowded, there are very few awards in any industry which recognise excellent trade skills teachers; in most industries there are none. The Institute will remedy this situation.

The Institute will develop excellence in teaching awards guidelines to foster and recognise excellent standards in trades education and training.

The awards will showcase and complement existing arrangements for awards for teachers. The Institute will publish both the award's guidelines and lists of teachers who receive the awards.

