



Highest rating for trade school

The Gordon Institute of TAFE has been recognised as one of Australia's top training institutions for the building and construction industry.

After taking part in trials of the Star Rating Scheme, two of the Gordon Institute's building and construction courses have been recognised with The Institute for Trade Skills Excellence highest Three Gold Star rating.

The Industry driven Star Rating Scheme evaluates TAFEs and private training providers, and recognises their achievements in trade skills training with a One Gold Star, Two Gold Star or Three Gold Star rating, with Three Gold Stars being the highest level of recognition.

The Minister for Vocational and Further Education Andrew Robb visited the East Geelong campus in September and congratulated the Gordon Institute of TAFE in Geelong.

"I admire what you've done and the reputation of this Institute," he said. "To all the staff here, congratulations on your contribution."

Robb said the ratings are about recognising excellence and rebalancing the status of trades and academic qualifications after too much emphasis on the latter.

"If we are to redress a lot of the skills issues out there that we need about 20 per cent of the workforce with university qualifications. And that's pretty much what we've got. But we also need about 60 per cent of the workforce with a good quality technical, vocational, creative education. It's currently 20 (per cent)."

Brian Wexham, Chief Executive Officer of The Institute for Trade Skills Excellence, said: "This is a fantastic result for the Gordon Institute and it's good to see they are being recognised by industry as one of Australia's best training institutes for the building and construction sector."



Federal Minister Andrew Robb with staff and trainees at the Gordon Institute.

Trials of the Star Rating Scheme are now complete, after having assessed 20 TAFEs and private training providers around Australia.

Fred Baltetsch, Head of Building and Construction at the Gordon Institute said the trial process has confirmed their position as a provider of excellence in trade skills training for the building and construction industries.

"We know we have the ability to equip students with the knowledge and skills to work in the building and construction industry, and through this recognition, we can show that industry is behind us."

Baltetsch said that the trials provided an effective method for addressing the needs of students as well as keeping up to date with the changing needs of industry.

The two courses recognised by the Star Rating Scheme are Plumbing, and Carpentry, Joinery and Cabinetmaking, both of which received a Three Gold Star rating.