



PRESS RELEASE DRAFT

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Recognising high performers in trade skills training

Swinburne awarded star rating

Recognising high performing training organisations is one way The Institute for Trade Skills Excellence is elevating the status of trade skills and helping to address Australia's skills shortage.

The School of Engineering at Swinburne TAFE is among the first Registered Training Organisations to be recognised by The Institute's Star Rating Scheme.

The Scheme recognises and awards high performing Registered Training Organisations with a One Gold Star, Two Gold Star or Three Gold Star Rating.

Swinburne University of Technology has been recognised with a Two Gold Star Rating in Engineering.

Carlo de Martinis, Director of Swinburne's School of Engineering said, "We were pleased to be part of The Scheme, and it was interesting to discover what an external independent organisation thinks of what we are doing."

Brian Wexham, Chief Executive Officer of The Institute for Trade Skills Excellence said Swinburne University of Technology's recognition as a high performing training institution was well-deserved, and he congratulated them on an exemplary outcome.

"The Scheme recognises high performing registered training providers such as the Swinburne School of Engineering, and helps individual schools and faculties understand exactly what their clients want from their training.

"It is a national initiative which will help promote and advance the quality and relevance of vocational and technical training for the trades in Australia," said Mr Wexham.

"The Star Rating Scheme is an industry driven initiative and has been developed by The Institute and industry to provide a platform that will deliver the vocational training outcomes required to meet industry needs," said Mr Wexham.



“The Scheme will also make it easier for students and their parents to ascertain which registered training organisations have been recognised at an industry level, within their field of interest.

“Employers will also be able to assess the quality of trade skills training that graduates hold from each registered training organisation rated within The Star Rating Scheme,” said Mr Wexham.

Mr de Martinis supported the Star Rating Scheme and said the criterion has helped in Swinburne’s own internal review methods.

“The Star Rating Scheme has given us more confidence in our own internal processes, and it is an effective way of improving performance” said Mr de Martinis.

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The Institute for Trade Skills Excellence (The Institute):

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, Federal Government funded group 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 (AI Group) and the National Farmers Federation (NFF).

Brian Wexham, Chief Executive Officer of The Institute:

Mr Wexham has been a Director of Worldskills Australia Inc since 2002 and has taken a keen interest in emerging skills shortages and the quality of trade training in Australia.

His background in media, advertising and publishing is extensive and includes executive roles with The Times and The Sunday Times in London, board positions with The Observer and the Today newspaper, London. He is also the former Chief Executive of Lonhro Media Group PLC East Africa and more recently was the Chief Executive of APN Educational Media (Australia and New Zealand).



The Star Rating Scheme:

The Star Rating Scheme will identify the very best training providers, industry by industry. It is a way to enable employers, career counsellors, potential students, and parents to distinguish excellence in trade training by evaluating training providers. Industry areas within RTOs which apply will receive either a One Gold Star, Two Gold Star, or Three Gold Star rating to indicate that they achieve excellent results for their clients.

It's also about creating a better informed market which will expect high quality, and thereby help to lift the quality bar on training.

The Star Rating Scheme focuses on the following eight areas of skill shortage:

- Automotive
- Building and Construction
- Electrical
- Hospitality and Personal Services
- Manufacturing
- Metals and Engineering
- Mineral Resources
- Rural and Farming

Evaluations are carried out against three broad criteria that were developed in partnership with businesses that employ tradespeople. The evaluation process includes an initial self evaluation by the relevant faculty or school, followed by a site visit to schools or faculties who demonstrate potential to achieve a One Gold Star, Two Gold Star or Three Gold Star rating.