

## CAPABILITY STATEMENT



**General Construction Certificate 3 qualifications -  
Carpentry, Shopfitting & Detailed Joinery, Painting & Decorating,  
Bricklaying & Blocklaying  
at  
TAFE NSW Illawarra Institute**

TAFE NSW Illawarra Institute delivers apprenticeships in the General Construction Certificate 3 stream - Carpentry, Shopfitting & Detailed Joinery, Painting & Decorating, Bricklaying & Blocklaying, based on the nationally endorsed standards of the BCG03 and BCP03 Training Package.

It has been recognised by the Institute for Trade Skills Excellence as one of Australia's premier providers and awarded **Three Gold Stars** under the Institute's Star Rating Scheme. Its strengths under the Scheme's three criteria are summarised below.

### 1. Training and assessment which focuses on enterprise and learner needs

- *Illawarra Institute is the largest provider of vocational education and training in the south east region. It has a very large catchment area that provides over 11% of total TAFE NSW enrolments. It delivers personal and customer friendly programs that have been attested to by students and employers as the best learning experience that can be provided in a regional area.*
- *The Institute has a strong corporate culture that encourages innovation in program development and delivery by its industry recognised teaching team. The guiding principle of developing training plans in partnership with an employer and apprentice/trainee provides fully flexible training delivered according to customer needs.*
- *The learners participate in the development of competence on full size projects not models and agreements with local businesses and councils have seen the construction of full building code compliant structures.*
- *The Institute applies the full principles of recognition of prior learning. This enables students to participate in multi-stage classes where an individual works on specific activities required to achieve competence in a specified trade discipline. This flexibility allows multiple entry and exit points in programs to meet the skills demands of each person and their employer.*
- *Specialist short training programs to meet industry demand are developed and delivered for individual enterprises. Apprentices are encouraged to take on additional specialist units to further develop their skills and extend their ultimate value to their employer.*

## 2. Excellent trainers and assessors, and contemporary equipment

- *Illawarra has a team of dedicated fulltime trade teachers and supporting part-time or casual teachers that deliver programs on campus and within the work environment. These teachers have been recognised by their peers as key contributors to national training package development. Some are Worldskills judges and indeed two teachers won the inaugural Institute for Trade Skills Excellence - Trade Teacher of the Year 2007 in their trade areas.*
- *The Institute is exceptionally well equipped and has developed a close working partnership with equipment manufacturers and suppliers to have available state of the art machinery so that apprentices acquire skills that will be immediately applicable in the workplace.*

## 3. Support to enable enterprises and learners get the most out of the apprenticeship/ traineeship

- *Each apprentice/trainee is encouraged to work closely with individual teachers as their mentors. Learning exercises involve active participation to achieve a competence that will ensure individuals become productive members of the work team on site in the shortest possible time.*
- *Pre-employment and school based programs provide potential apprentices with the opportunity to understand the full range of vocations that are available in the industry. This helps to ensure each person selects the right career and maximises the opportunity for successful completion.*
- *The Institute has a structured survey based system that analyses its performance and enables it to readily make changes to program delivery based on employer and student feedback. These suggestions for changes are welcomed by the Institute's team as they strive for on-going continuous improvement in all their services.*
- *The Institute has a very close relationship with local employers, councils, parents, industry associations and broader community groups. Training programs and support services are developed and implemented based firmly on the needs of a diverse group of stakeholders. The success of the Institute in delivering quality programs and services is attested to by its growing reputation among its clients.*

For more information about TAFE NSW Illawarra Institute visit the Institute's website at [www.illawarra.tafensw.edu.au](http://www.illawarra.tafensw.edu.au)

This evaluation was carried out under the management of the Institute's **Building and Construction Industry Reference Group**, by an evaluation team comprised of accredited evaluators and industry experts.

The **Institute for Trade Skills Excellence** is an initiative of Australian industry and Government established to promote the trades and recognise those registered training organisations (RTOs) truly focused on industry's needs and achieving excellent results.

How does it work? ... Under the **Star Rating Scheme**, individual faculties or schools within RTOs are evaluated by the Institute using industry experts and industry designed criteria. Those considered excellent are awarded one gold star, two gold stars or three gold stars by the Institute. The Institute issues a **Capability Statement** for each RTO which it publishes to explain the school or faculty's strengths and the level of service an employer can expect to receive.

Quite simply, where RTOs are doing great things, the Institute wants to ensure industry knows about it, and so an employer looking to select an RTO for their apprentice or trainee, can make an informed choice.