



PRESS RELEASE

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Geelong TAFE recognised under the Star Rating Scheme

Star Rating Scheme to be rolled out

As if winning the AFL premiership wasn't enough.

The Gordon Institute of TAFE in Geelong has been kicking goals for the building and construction industry, and tackling Australia's skills shortage.

The Institute for Trade Skills Excellence today announced that the Gordon Institute of TAFE in Geelong has been recognised as one of Australia's top training institutions for the building and construction industry under the Star Rating Scheme.

After taking part in trials of the Star Rating Scheme, two of the Gordon Institute's building and construction courses have been recognised with a 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 the Hon Andrew Robb AO MP congratulated the Gordon Institute of TAFE in Geelong and said "for the first time parents and students alike have a rating system that will give them peace of mind and certainty about the quality of training being offered by organisations around the country."

"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," said Brian Wexham, Chief Executive Officer of The Institute for Trade Skills Excellence.

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



“To have been recognised with three gold star ratings, for two of their courses, indicates that they are serious about providing budding builders and construction workers with the best possible skills training,” said Mr Wexham.

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 all the way.”

Mr 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.

“Being involved in the trials allowed us to focus on the needs of our customers, the quality of our teachers, and the outcomes required by industry.

“The trials have recognised that our faculties and schools are achieving excellent results as well as meeting the needs of industry now and into the future,” said Mr Baltetsch.

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.

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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.