



## Award-winning fight against skills crisis

A NATIONAL skills training institute has recognised the Barrier Reef Institute of TAFE's fight against the North's skills crisis.

The Institute for Trade Skills Excellence (ITSE) awarded the TAFE its second highest rating – Two Gold Stars – for its metals and engineering courses.

Barrier Reef Institute of TAFE director of studies Bill McDonald said the facility's focus on industry needs was a big factor in the high rating.

“A good focus of our application (for an institute rating) was our working relationship with CSR sugar milling,” he said.

“The delivery is managed predominantly on site with some off-site training and we work that around their crushing season.

“We're working heavily with schools and through the North Queensland Smart Futures groups to promote traditional trades as a career pathway.

“We support the Australian Technical College.”

The star rating scheme is designed to identify the best training providers to enable students and employers to distinguish excellence in trade training by evaluating training providers.

The scheme focuses on specific areas of skill shortage including automotive, metals and engineering, mineral resources, electrical and building and construction.

ITSE chief executive officer Brian Wexham said the star ratings offered an independent way to validate a course.

“One of the biggest concerns when choosing a course is whether or not it will get people the job they want when they complete the course,” he said.



**SKILLED . . . Tim McIntyre is a fourth year apprentice at CSR's Kalamia Mill and a Barrier Reef Institute of TAFE trainee**