



CAPABILITY STATEMENT

TAFE NSW – Illawarra Institute, Cookery School

The TAFE NSW – Illawarra Institute has been recognised by the Institute for Trade Skills Excellence as one of Australia’s premier providers, and has been awarded **one gold star** under the Institute’s Star Rating Scheme for its Cookery School situated at the Wollongong campus.

A summary of the TAFE NSW – Illawarra Institute’s strengths against the evaluation criteria are:

Training and assessment which focuses on enterprise and learner needs

Illawarra Institute Cookery School is implementing a number of initiatives to improve their training and assessment processes. Enterprise and Apprentice guides have been introduced to track experiences of the apprentices. Employers must sign these off before apprentices can undertake assessment. With Blended Delivery, there is capability for training and assessment to be negotiated for either on or off-the-job with individual employers. This was piloted in 2007, and numbers of employers involved is expected to increase.

Employers are engaged via participation in assessment validation activities, industry forums and on advisory panels. The ‘Community of Practice’ forum was convened in 2007 and is made up of industry employers, providing industry input. It is planned to increase membership in 2008 from a range of local establishments. The ‘Dining with the Stars’ programme provides some opportunities for apprentices to work with a range of chefs and build their skills and also provides industry experience for staff.

Excellent trainers and assessors, and contemporary equipment

All the part time cookery staff members are current industry practitioners; while full time staff members participate in frequent structured industry tours during non-teaching weeks to ensure their skills maintain industry relevance. Return to industry activities have been used in the past to allow full time staff to maintain the currency of their skills. Staff members also have been actively involved in attending trade shows and in activities such as the 2006 Shoalhaven Food and Wine Spectacular to promote the industry and build staff skills and networks.

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

Illawarra Institute demonstrates strength in the area of support to enterprises and students and links to schools and the community. Their involvement in the Protégé project supporting women in hospitality was a significant initiative. The “Adopt a School” project and Local Community Partnerships piloted in 2007 were aimed at exposing young people to the cookery trade and assisting them make an informed choice when considering an apprenticeship. LCP programmes have also been developed through consultation with industry and government to provide skills with the intention of encouraging people to take up cookery apprenticeships. Additionally, the Cookery School maintains involvement with parents and employers to assist in addressing learning problems experienced by young apprentices.

For more information about the TAFE NSW – Illawarra Institute and the Wollongong Cookery School visit their website at <http://www.illawarra.tafensw.edu.au>

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.