



CAPABILITY STATEMENT

TAFE NSW – Illawarra Institute, Bakery 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 Bakery 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 Bakery School is implementing a number of initiatives to improve their training and assessment processes. Feedback and input is sought from industry on an informal basis via activities such as workplace visits, involvement in trade shows and industry events. There is formal contact with employers, via the Australian Society of Bakers, to workshop issues currently affecting employers and their apprentices in relation to training. The Illawarra TAFE Bakery School utilises the owner/baker of a local establishment as a mentor for a number of apprentices, and a weekly industry link via the Head Teacher. All staff members participate in internal program and resource validation processes, with outcomes then validated with three key employers prior to implementation.

In 2007, a tailored program was developed in response to informal industry feedback and was attended by qualified bakers and apprentices.

Excellent trainers and assessors, and contemporary equipment

Illawarra Institute Bakery School demonstrates strengths in this area. All the part time bakery staff members are current industry practitioners; while full time staff members participate in frequent shows and industry forums to ensure their skills maintain industry relevance. All teaching staff members have had some level of experience judging in regional baking shows, with two staff members regularly entering these shows. This provides invaluable industry knowledge and skills back into the Bakery School. Skills workshops are conducted frequently and based on collaboratively decided topics. Industry experts are sourced at intervals to allow staff and local bakers to build their skills. Suppliers of products also frequently conduct information sessions and demonstrations for both staff and apprentices.

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

Pre-apprenticeship programmes have been developed to provide skills with the intention of encouraging take up of bakery apprenticeships. Informal assessment and counselling during this programme and involvement with parents has led to a better understanding the requirements of the industry. Parents and employers are also involved in addressing learning problems experienced by young apprentices to support their continued training.

A ‘wall of fame’ has been developed in the Bakery School displaying images of high performing graduates; this initiative is used with first year apprentices to provide them with role models and motivation to continue their training.

For more information about the TAFE NSW – Illawarra Institute and the Wollongong Bakery School program **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.