



Mining Chronicle

December, 2007

Page: 73

Section: General News

Region: National Circulation: 6,000

Type: Magazines Trade

Size: 369.16 sq.cms.

Published: Monthly

Brief: ITSE

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Star rating sprint to boost training begins

By Janine Martin

After a two-month warm-up run, the Institute for Trade Skills Excellence has officially rolled out its Star Rating Scheme.

The evaluation system recognises and awards registered training organisations with a star rating – three gold stars being the top honour.

The rating scheme applies to the eight industry groups that are experiencing acute labour shortages – mining, automotive, construction, electrical, hospitality and personal services, manufacturing, engineering and rural.

“The Star Rating Scheme is a national initiative that will help promote and advance the quality and relevance of vocational and technical training for the trades in Australia,” institute chief Brian Wexham said.

“Putting the emphasis on training will improve standards for future students and give leading providers in the mineral resources industry the recognition that they are meeting industry expectations.”

With institutes coming under the rating radar, employers will be able to measure the quality of training that

graduates hold.

The trial run saw 19 RTOs signing up for evaluation – with six clinching the prized three stars, 11 winning a double, and two institutes getting the lone star.

Among these was Western Australia’s Caterpillar Institute, which received three stars for its metalliferous mining and automotives course.

“The recognition we have received validates our position as the leading choice in training for the mining industry here in WA,” said Irene Ioannakis, managing director of the Caterpillar Institute.

The Gordon Institute of TAFE in Geelong won three stars for its plumbing program as well as another three for its carpentry, joinery and cabinet-making course.

WA’s College of Electrical Training also received three gold stars for electrical engineering.

The Institute for Trade Skills Excellence expects to receive about 100 expressions of interest in the Star Rating Scheme by the end of the year. ■