



CAPABILITY STATEMENT

General Construction Certificate III Qualifications Swan TAFE

Swan TAFE Western Australia delivers apprenticeships in the General Construction Certificate III stream based on the nationally endorsed standards of the BCG03 Training Package. It has been recognised by the Institute for Trade Skills Excellence as one of Australia's premier providers and awarded **Three Gold Stars** under the Institute's Star Rating Scheme.

A summary of Swan TAFE's strengths against the evaluation criteria are:

Training and assessment which focuses on enterprise and learner needs

- *Swan TAFE is the largest supplier of construction based trade training and has over 5000 students and 200 highly experienced and industry recognised lecturers delivering training at all levels from "taster" programs to full apprenticeships.*
- *Swan TAFE has a strong corporate management culture that ensures its financial structure is sound so that it can deliver flexible training that meets the needs of each individual student and their employer.*
- *Local industry and the community provide strong support to all the activities of the College particularly in the early developmental school based programs which have led to a high level of transition of students to fulltime apprentice programs*
- *The Institute applies the full principal of recognition of prior learning and uses "challenge" tests to determine the skills of each person in real life activities that guide the lecturers to creating individual training plans. This flexibility allows multiple entry and exit points in programs to meet the skills demands of each person and their employer.*
- *The progress of each student is tracked through the use of dedicated field staff that regularly visit each apprentice and their employer on site and decides whether additional training is needed at site or during the next rotation to the College.*

Excellent trainers and assessors, and contemporary equipment

- *Swan's lecturers are industry specialists in their own right and are backed up with support staff that can provide additional training and information to enable each student to reach their full potential. These teachers have been recognised by their peers as key contributors to national training package development and some are now involved in offshore assessment of competencies for immigration purposes.*
- *The College is well equipped and has plans for further expansion and refurbishment to lift its premises to provide even greater levels of client service. This is particularly important given its growth in activity of some 33% over the past two years.*
- *Lecturers track the progress of each student closely and are on guard for any student that needs additional mentoring and support to improve their performance. Performance results are readily available to an employer which is discussed with the relevant teacher to plan any supplementary activities.*
- *Swan has been selected to lead a project "Transforming the Trades" which is aimed at identifying skill mixes for trades that are considered specialist in nature, e.g. carpentry for housing. The project will allow for a new suite of qualifications to be developed and delivered.*

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

- *Students are encouraged to work closely with each teacher and field officer to ensure each training activity is relevant to the operations of their employer. The College monitors and the progress of each student through targeted surveys of all stakeholders and immediately responds to any suggestion for improvement.*
- *Pre-employment and school based programs provide potential apprentices with the opportunity to trial the vocations available in the industry with Swan's host employers' readily willing to provide on-site experience and future fulltime positions.*
- *The College has a strong community presence that provides skill development activities for students and a valuable asset for the local community.*
- *The College has a very close relationship with local employers, councils, parents, industry associations and broader community groups which assists it to deliver quality programs and services required by stakeholders. A completion rate of over 90% is testament to its successful operation.*

For more information about Swan TAFE visit the Institute's website at www.swantafe.wa.edu.au

This evaluation was carried out under the management of the Institute's **Building and Construction Industry Reference Group**, by an evaluation team comprised of accredited evaluators and industry experts.

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.