

**Further Information:**

Helen Singleton  
The Institute for Trade Skills Excellence  
(02) 8314 7304

**MEDIA RELEASE**

**Flexible Construction Training and Assessment recognised for excellence in Building and Construction**

South Australia's building training organisation Flexible Construction Training and Assessment (FCTA) has been recognised as a leading Registered Training Organisation with a Two Gold Star Rating for its Building & Construction - Brick & Blocklaying, Wall & Floor Tiling, Wall & Ceiling Lining and Solid Plastering Courses.

The Star Rating Scheme is administered by The Institute for Trade Skills Excellence and recognises excellence in trades and skills training among TAFE and private Registered Training Organisations.

Chief Executive Officer, Jim Baff of FCTA said that receiving the Two Gold Star Rating was recognition of the high quality of teaching delivered.

"The recognition we have received validates our position as a leading choice in training across a variety of trade skills industries in South Australia" said Mr Baff.

The Star Rating Scheme identifies the very best training providers, industry by industry, to enable employers, career counselors, potential students, and parents to distinguish excellence in trade training by evaluating training providers.

Industry areas within Registered Training Organisations which apply receive either a: One Gold Star; Two Gold Star; or Three Gold Star Rating to indicate that they have achieved excellent results for their students.

The Star Rating Scheme focuses on the following eight areas of skill shortage:

- Automotive
- Building & Construction
- Electrical
- Hospitality & Personal Services
- Manufacturing
- Metals & Engineering
- Mineral Resources
- Rural & Farming

Evaluations are carried out against three broad criteria that were developed in partnership with the industry.

The evaluation process includes an initial self evaluation by the relevant faculty or school, followed by a site visit to schools or faculties who demonstrate potential to achieve a One Gold Star, Two Gold Star or Three Gold Star rating.

Brian Wexham, Chief Executive Officer of The Institute for Trade Skills Excellence said that The Star Rating Scheme reassures students that they are selecting the most appropriate course.

“One of the biggest concerns when choosing a training organisations to attend is whether or not it will get people the job they want when they complete the course. Thanks to The Star Ratings Scheme, prospective students and employers now have a credible source to help them with their decision.

“The Scheme aims to recognise high performing registered training providers such as Flexible Construction Training and Assessment, and help individual schools and faculties understand exactly what their clients want from their training.

“The Star Rating Scheme is an industry driven initiative and has been developed by The Institute and industry to provide a platform that will deliver the vocational training outcomes required to meet industry needs” said Mr Wexham.

Chief Executive Officer, Jim Baff of FCTA said that the Training Organisation views the Star Rating Scheme as an effective way of addressing Australia’s skills shortage.

“We found the process to be a valuable addition to our own internal quality processes and regular self-assessment work, and a great mechanism to maintain our focus on providing excellence for our customers.

“During this critical skills shortage period, we welcome initiatives that seek to identify and meet specific industry needs - such as The Star Rating Scheme. They help us ensure that our apprentices and trainees have the right skills to contribute to industry and the region’s economy” said Mr Baff.

**ENDS**

## About

**The Institute for Trade Skills Excellence (The Institute)** promotes the importance of trades and skills and recognises excellence in trades and skills education and training through:

- SkillsOne – an integrated platform of television programming, interactive website and media partnerships;
- The Star Rating Scheme, which awards high performing training organisations with Gold Star Ratings; and
- The Trades and Skills Teaching Awards which recognise excellence amongst teachers in trades and skills education and training.

The Institute's focus is currently on the following trades and skills Industry areas:

- |                                   |                        |
|-----------------------------------|------------------------|
| – Automotive                      | – Manufacturing        |
| – Building & Construction         | – Metals & Engineering |
| – Electrical                      | – Mineral Resources    |
| – Hospitality & Personal Services | – Rural & Farming      |

### **The Star Rating Scheme:**

Through the mechanisms established within the National Training Framework, the job-related outcomes required by particular occupations are now defined by industry. Industry also makes decisions about assessment criteria, and about how outcomes at different levels contribute towards qualifications within the Australian Qualifications Framework. These are incorporated in national Training Packages.

However, industry has little or no influence over the quality of delivery of training. Historically there has been a view amongst some employers that despite having influence over content, the quality of training and assessment is not of the standard that they require.

The Institute addresses this issue through a unique, voluntary system to support employers and provide guidance in the Vocational Education and Training (VET) market place. The Star Rating Scheme is a mechanism through which industry evaluates the individual industry-specific schools and faculties of RTOs and

awards those that are found to be excellent with a One, Two or Three Gold Star rating. The Star Ratings focus on excellence not compliance.

The Scheme provides RTOs with a powerful industry endorsement of the quality of their training and assessment and success in meeting the needs of industry. Students, parents, career counselors and educators are able to seek out those RTOs rated by industry as producing training and skill outcomes that meet industry's needs.

Registered Training Organisations that have been recognised by industry with a Gold Star Rating can be viewed on [www.itse.com.au](http://www.itse.com.au) and [www.skillsone.com.au](http://www.skillsone.com.au)