



Don't leave us in the states' hands, technical colleges plead

Andrew Trounson

AUSTRALIAN Technical Colleges have urged the Rudd Government to rethink plans to abolish their funding, arguing the states have shown little interest in supporting an apprenticeship program devised by the former Howard government.

The colleges claim their model of delivering apprenticeship training to students is more efficient than the federal Government's replacement scheme in which secondary schools can apply for funding to offer their own training centres.

"Our preference would be to remain funded at a commonwealth level

because the state response has been less than desired," Nigel Hill, chairman of the Australian Technical College Association told *The Australian*.

At a time when 40 per cent of first-year trade apprentices are dropping out and exacerbating skills shortages, the Rudd Government has allocated \$2.5 billion over 10 years for schools to establish trade training centres.

The Government is also spending \$1.9 billion over five years to provide 630,000 new training places, including 85,000 apprenticeships.

But Mr Hill believes the approach of the colleges in attracting students while they are still in school and having them work closely with industry is the key to

improving retention rates. An example is the ATC at Sunshine in Melbourne's west, whose chairman Barry McCarthy is also the manager of car giant Toyota's training and development planning centre. Enrolments at Sunshine have this year doubled to 120.

"We think this is a good model going forward, but we need to ensure that industry connection," he said.

About 3000 school students are enrolled in the technical colleges, federal funding for which will cease at the end of 2009. The Government is working to integrate the colleges on a case-by-case basis into the existing training education system, which is largely a state responsibility.



Chefs taste the secrets of success

Jill Pengelley

FOUR young apprentice chefs from country restaurants came to the city this week to learn from a master.

They were chosen from 14 who applied to be part of Chefs in the City 2008, which is a program to support the development of apprentices in regional areas.

Hilton Adelaide executive chef Simon Bryant – co-star of the hit ABC1 show *The Cook and the Chef* – guided them on a tour “from paddock to plate” as they met suppliers and prepared dishes in the cavernous Hilton kitchens.

Sponsored by Restaurant & Catering SA, the Hilton Adelaide and Meat and Livestock Australia, the three-day event included a five-course meal prepared by the group under Bryant’s direction.

He says the finished product was testament to their efforts.

“We underestimate the ability of young people, particularly their work ethic,” he says.

“We gave the chefs method sheets rather than recipes to work from so they would understand the basic cooking principles and learn to develop the instincts required to produce great food in the high-pressure environment of a restaurant kitchen.”

All third-year apprentices, the Chefs in the City were Jamie Wall, of Appellation Restaurant at Peppers the Louise in the Barossa, Jonathon Mills, of Poplars Winery Restaurant in the Coonawarra, Kylie Murphy, of the Normanville Beach Cafe at Normanville, and Erin Pascoe, of Sage & Muntries Restaurant in Mt Gambier.

Ms Murphy says being part of the program was a “great privilege”.

“To be given this opportunity, the knowledge and experience is one to treasure the rest of my life,” she says.

Restaurant & Catering SA chief executive officer Sally Neville says that many country apprentices are isolated in their work. “Sometimes they are running a kitchen on their own and don’t have an executive

chef,” she says.

“They don’t get inspired, they don’t see another way of doing things, they just do what they have to to get by.

“An opportunity to work like this is aspirational for them and also inspirational.”

Ms Neville says the state needs about 200 more qualified chefs and probably 100 more apprentices. She says there is now a focus back on trades, but in previous years baby boomers encouraged their children to go to university – at the expense of many trades.

She says young people interested in a hospitality career should approach a local restaurant and ask about work experience. High school students can talk to their teachers about school-based apprenticeships and Regency TAFE SA offers a certificate III in cookery.

“Hospitality provides a lot of opportunities, including travel,” Ms Neville says. “The industry is growing fast and there are so many opportunities.”



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ON THE BOIL: Hilton chef Simon Bryant and Lam Cheng Ung at Lien Heng Asian Grocery, show central market produce to apprentice chefs Jamie Wall, Jonathon Mills, Kylie Murphy and Erin Pascoe.



AUTOMOTIVE HELP: Phillip Palma (Brian Dunn Ford), Brad Murtagh (Training and Education) and Gerard Francis (Teaching and Learning) with the new vehicle. Picture: NICK McGRATH

Ford's technology helping out

AUTOMOTIVE apprentices at the Australian Technical College Bendigo are using the latest technology.

Ford Australia has donated a Fairlane car to the college to enable apprentices to stay up to date with the latest Ford technology.

Brian Dunn Ford helped to transport the vehicle to Bendigo.

"The car will assist us with the

vocational education trade training of our school-based apprentices," college principal Dr Michael Langdon said.

The Fairlane will be based at the Bendigo Regional Institute of TAFE automotive workshop, where most ATC apprentices do their training.

The ATC has partnerships with BRIT, local schools and industry to

enable students to complete their Year 11 and 12 studies and the first year of their apprenticeship.

The college covers all the traditional trades, which are experiencing skill shortages.

Many local employers use this education model to secure apprenticeships to help meet the skill needs of their industry.



Skills put to national test

JOEL Clark and Ryan Drake from the Australian Technical College – Manning Valley Campus are busily preparing for the upcoming National WorldSkills Competition at Darling Harbour in July.

They are both honing their skills to compete in the Automotive VET in Schools section against competitors from across Australia.

Joel and Ryan will complete a variety of servicing tasks that an apprentice would be required to perform in an automotive work-

shop.

Their teacher Ray Redman has been setting them jobs which include brakes, electrical and cooling system work, and they have also received training at Taree Mechanical Services and Mid Coast Ford.

“The boys have worked very hard to get to this level of the WorldSkills competition,” campus manager Jim Dempsey said.

“The college community is certainly very proud of their efforts.

“We would also like to acknowl-

edge the generous support provided by Taree Mechanical Services and United Tools.

“Both of these businesses have contributed a significant amount of time and money to assist the boys with their preparation, travel and accommodation requirements.”

“It is certainly inspiring to see local industry getting behind school-based apprentices and supporting training in our area,” said Jim.



WorldSkills challengers: Australian Technical College students Ryan Drake and Joel Clark with teacher Ray Redman and Mark Bergin and Greg Hobbs of Taree Mechanical Services.



On the job training while still at school

THE ARMIDALE School has developed a school-based trainee and apprenticeship program for Year 11 and Year 12 students.

This purpose-designed program provides students with an alternative pathway to work and industry, allowing boys to study a HSC whilst also commencing a traineeship/apprenticeship.

Boys are placed with an employer in their particular vocation or trade of interest, normally working one day a week.

While at school, boys attend normal classes such as English and maths, two vocational education and training (VET) subjects delivered at TAFE and TAS, and participate in a horticultural project on the school grounds.

The program allows boys to gain a Certificate II or III in their VET subject and gain one year of their traineeship or apprenticeship over their final years

at school.

Master of apprentices, Brett Monley, supervises the boys working in the horticultural project, focussed on designing and building a small nursery.

Mr Monley said the boys work on a program of a full day's work with the nursery on Monday, and work with their employer on Wednesday.

For the remainder of the week the boys participate in classes and VET studies.

He said the boys are gaining valuable skills not only with their employer, but also in the nursery project, they are learning how to operate a range of tools and equipment, and importantly develop excellent work ethic and personal discipline that employers are looking for in young people.

Vocational education coordinator and TAS careers advisor, Trevor Thatcher, said TAS is grateful to the Northern

Tablelands Industry and Education Partnership (NTIEP) in the support it has shown to the program and the provision of funding to allow the program to get underway.

Eleven boys are currently enrolled in the program in Year 11, with a plan to enrol around the same number each year.

The school is also thankful for the interest and support shown by local employers, demonstrating enthusiasm to take-on boys as trainees and apprentices.

A group training organisation, New England North West Group Training, was engaged by the school to provide valuable assistance in the employment and administration of the trainees.

"As a way of recognising their support, TAS held a morning tea for employers and their trainees at the School," Mr Thatcher said.



Back row: Troy Adams (TK Welding), Gary Wright (Cliff Wright Motors), Lucy Adams (IT Department TAS), Harley Payne (St Kilda Hotel), James Hoskin (Tony Hoskin Plumbing), Cindy Porter (Bob Green Auto), Sam Noakes (Lindsay Snell Plumbing), Ben Edwards (Ben Edwards Builder), Darrel Porter (Bob Green Auto). Front row: Josh David (TK Welding), Alex Chaffey (Cliff Wright Motors), David Jefferis (St Kilda Hotel), Harley Scholz (IT Department TAS), Henry Archdale (Landmark), Michael Cobb (Lindsay Snell Plumbing), Angus Crawford (Lindsay Snell Plumbing), Josh Laurie (Pallaroo) and Luke Taylor (Bob Green Auto)



A Moree school based apprentice is one of the first to make the regional finals of the 2008 NSW Training Awards to be held in Tamworth on July 4.

Jessie-Lee Harris is a school based hairdressing apprentice with JT's Hair Studio and she joins Christopher Crouch and Samantha Biggs also from Moree who are now in the running to win prestigious awards.

Manager State Training Services Greg Poetschka said The NSW Training awards are held each year to encourage and recognise people looking to advance their career and the employers who are assisting our communities in fighting the skills shortage.

"These awards have grown and this year we have some very talented people in a number of categories who are leading the way.

"We are seeing more school based apprentices like Jessie-Lee Harris who still attend school but will spend one day a week working on the job," he said

The northern centres are well represented for 2008.
Inverell

Kristie Pettit – Smooth Beauty – apprentice – Beauty therapy,

Stephani Symes – Smooth Room- School based apprentice – hairdressing

Rachel Courtney – Best Employment – Trainee – business frontline management

Glen Innes

Zac Fenn-Miller – D & J Wilson Appliance Repairs – school based apprentice – refrigeration/air-conditioning Tenterfield

Tracey Lawrence – Tenterfield High – VET in schools – Hospitality

The Greater Northern Skills Development Group will hold the 2008 NSW Training awards on July 4th in Tamworth with a number of categories to be decided:

- Apprentice of the Year
- Trainee of the Year
- Vocational Student of the Year
- Aboriginal and Torres Islander Student of the Year
- Vocational School Student of the Year
- School Based Apprentice of the Year

The awards are sponsored regionally by County Energy and the ANZ Bank.