



Skills Plan Update

- ECA have applied for an additional grant to extend the 'Communicating with Families' workplace literacy project to services in the North and North West. It is hoped that a decision will be made this month
- The second Education & Care Career Awareness Program will be run in the south for approximately 30 year 10 students on May 22nd and 23rd. Pathway planners in the north and north west are currently planning similar sessions for their regions.
- Through the Skills Plan ECA have committed to have a presence at career forums and expos around Tasmania. Whenever possible this will be through a sector representative or the project officer. When that isn't possible a stall will be set up with a poster, brochures and contact details for those interested in further information
- All Tasmanian colleges have been provided with a variety of careers information that they can use to promote the education and care sector. A meeting was recently convened to discuss School Based Traineeships with teachers

HECS-HELP Benefit

Now is a good time to remind your staff that early childhood education teachers may be eligible to receive a reduction of half of their HECS-HELP debt if they meet certain criteria.

The HECS-HELP Benefit for early childhood education teachers reduces the Higher Education Loan Program (HELP) debt of early childhood education teachers who work in areas of high need based on postcode location by \$1,831 in the 2013-14 income year.

An additional HECS-HELP Benefit for education graduates may also be available. This may result in a total benefit of \$16,000 over five years.

The attached flyer provides more detailed information on eligibility conditions and how to apply for the benefit through the Australian Taxation Office.

Additional information is contained in the flyer attached to this email.

Australian Training Awards

The Australian Training Awards are back again for another year, and applications from individuals and organisations are being sought. Applications close on Friday 30 May. The awards are the peak, national awards for the vocational education and training (VET) sector, recognising individuals, businesses and registered training organisations for their contribution to skilling Australia. Finalists will be recognised at an award ceremony in November.

www.australiantrainingawards.gov.au/

Sector Website of the month

Skills Tasmania's newsletter, *Skills Tasmania Facts* is a great way to keep up-to-date with national and Tasmanian vocational education and training news.

The regular newsletter has information on upcoming training and professional development activities, events, the latest funding opportunities, and more...

To receive *Skills Tasmania Facts* please subscribe using the online form [here](#)

Increasing flexibility in 'teach-out' provisions

Australian Skills Quality Authority (ASQA) will reintroduce flexibility to the teach-out arrangements, following feedback from providers. This decision is a revision of recent advice on the application of ASQA's *General Direction - Transition and Teach out*. Providers will shortly be required to notify ASQA in every case where a student cannot complete their training or assessment within the prescribed period.

Dates to remember

May

20 ECA Statewide (change of date)

June

4 Roundtable - Campbell Town

September

4-7 ECA National Conference

17 Roundtable - Campbell Town

Cheers

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