



An Australian Government Initiative

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*News and views on industry careers and skill needs for the
Western Melbourne & Hume City Region*



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Career Advice Australia

Where Are The Jobs? - Parent and Student Information Evening

The *Where are the Jobs?* parent and student information evening was held on Wednesday, August 8, at the Lakeside Banquet and Convention Center, Taylors Lakes. Over 600 people attended the event. The event was organised by the Western Local Community Partnership (LCP) and the Keilor Careers Group. Brimbank City Council and Vic Roads sponsored the evening.

Over 45 employers from various industries represented their organisations. Participating organisations included Qantas, Rio Tinto, Crown Ltd, Western Health, City West Water, BMW, VLine, Australian Defence Force and Franklin Printing.

This event provided parents and young people with the opportunity to find out directly from employers about job prospects, career opportunities and recruitment processes within the different industry areas. The one-on-one opportunity with employers gave parents and young people an insight into the different industries and how they operate.

As the Regional Industry Career Adviser (RICA) for Western Melbourne, I gave a presentation about future employment trends and employment prospects in Australia, as well as regional labour market information.

This was followed by presentations from a number of successful young people, who spoke about their career paths within their respective industries.

Parents in attendance were able to gain an understanding on how best to support their children with career decisions.

It was a very successful evening and I congratulate Western LCP and the organisers on a very informative and successful evening.

As a result of this evening, a follow up event has been organised by the Western LCP and Australian Industry Group (through the RICA).

The Western Region Careers Seminar will be held on Friday October 19, for Careers/VET/VCAL teachers and co-ordinators.

Employers who presented at *Where Are The Jobs?* will share information about their organisations, including employment opportunities and how to access these opportunities. For more information please contact Zina Miceli on 0437 133 316.



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- *Where Are The Jobs? - Parent and Student Information Evening*
- *It's Crunch Time*
- *ICT Skills Event*

What's coming up:

October 17
School and Industry Leaders Forum - Casa D'Abruzzo Club, Epping

October 19
Western Region Careers Seminar – Club Italia, Sunshine North

October 26
Western Region Industry & Education Leaders Luncheon - Club Italia, Sunshine North

October 29
Product Design Manufacturing Challenge Expo

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AUSTRALIAN INDUSTRY GROUP

About Career Advice Australia

Career Advice Australia is an Australian Government Initiative aimed at providing young Australians with improved access to high quality information on career opportunities in industry and to assist Australian Industry address skill needs and engage in young people's career development.

The Network comprises two tiers of industry career advice including 10 National Industry Career Specialists and 57 Regional Industry Career Advisers, as well as 213 Local Community Partnerships and 100 Youth Pathways Providers working directly with young people and industry across Australia.

Among other activities, this significant new initiative will assist in building bridges between young people and local businesses by:

- establishing Adopt A School programmes,
- supporting increased participation in Structured Workplace Learning programmes, and Australian School Based Apprenticeships, and
- providing a range of Career and Transition Support services, involving local businesses wherever possible.

It's Crunch Time

An important discussion paper, *It's Crunch Time: Raising Youth Engagement and Attainment*, was released in August and is well worth drawing attention to.

The paper, prepared by Australian Industry Group (AiGroup) and the Dusseldorp Skills Forum (DSF), raises some critical issues about youth engagement and hopes to stimulate discussion about the low level of participation and qualifications of youth in the labour market at a time of strong economic growth and unprecedented prosperity. The paper proposes a series of ideas for Federal and State action to lift retention and completion rates.

The paper states that in May 2007, 526,000 young Australians aged 15-24 years were not in full-time learning or work. Of these, 306,000 were unemployed, working part time but wanting more hours, or not in the labour force but wanting to work.

Each year, around 45,000 early school leavers do not go onto full-time work or learning and approximately 1 in 5 young adults (aged 20-24 years) have not completed either Year 12 or a Certificate III vocational qualification.

The report found that school completion rates in Australia have barely shifted over the past 15 years with the Ministerial Council on Education, Employment, Training and Youth Affairs estimating that Year 12 completions in Australia in 2005 was only 67%.

It is recommended that the proportion of young people completing Year 12 or achieving a Certificate III level qualification is gradually lifted to 90 percent by 2015. This would move Australia closer to the skill leaders in the OECD.

It's Crunch Time cont.

Access Economics estimate that lifting the proportion of young people completing school or an apprenticeship to 90 percent would boost annual GDP by 1.1 per cent (equivalent to \$9.2 billion in today's money) by 2040 - representing an extra \$500 a year per Australian in today's money.

The paper acknowledges that while many of the building blocks are already in place, a qualitative change in existing schooling and training arrangements and resources is needed.

The key initiatives proposed by AiGroup and DSF to change the current trends include:

- Establishing AQF Certificate III (Australian Qualification Framework) qualifications as the vocational equivalent of Year 12 completion
- Lifting Year 12 or vocational equivalent completion rates for young adults to 85% by 2011, then to 90% by 2015
- Ensuring that more than 90% of teenagers (15-19 year olds) are participating in full-time study, or full-time work or a combination
- Guaranteeing young adults second chance options to complete Year 12 or its equivalent
- Ensuring all students make a successful transition from primary to secondary schooling
- Providing high quality vocational education in schools and in structured learning in the workplace
- Reviewing the purpose and scope of traineeships
- Ensuring every potential early school leaver has access to personal guidance or mentoring

For a copy of this paper contact Zina Miceli on 0437 133 316.

ICT Skills Event

Multi Media Victoria and the Australian Industry Group have co-ordinated a series of *Upload Your Future* Information Communication Technology (ICT) career information sessions.

These sessions promote ICT careers and study to secondary school students (Years 9 -11) and are designed to inspire more young people to get in to ICT.

The Western Region event was held on September 6 at the Convention Centre, Victoria University.

Over 200 students attended from 9 secondary schools within the region.

Mr Telmo Languiller, MP opened the event, and was followed by presentations from guest speakers who represented a range of ICT industry areas. The guest speakers came from companies such as Pivotal HR, TOLL IPEC, Alcatel-Lucent, Middy's Data and Electrical and Acumentum.

The panel of speakers offered in-depth information and insight into their respective industries and gave a range of perspectives of careers in ICT.

For more information about the ICT career information sessions, please contact Zina Miceli on 0437 133 316.



You can view the document online at the Australian Industry Group website:
http://pdf.aigroup.asn.au/publications/general_publicationsCrunch_Time_Full_August07.pdf

For further information, contributions or feedback:

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