

NSW school based apprenticeships

NSW Department of Education and Training



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VET in schools – A success story

Many young people now choose to study vocational education and training (VET) while at school, with one in every three students taking at least one VET course as part of their Higher School Certificate (HSC) each year. These are high quality industry-recognised courses mainly delivered by schools and TAFE NSW.

In 2005, the Chair of the Board of Vocational Education and Training, Bert Evans AO conducted a review that showed VET in schools is helping to increase student retention to Year 12, making students more work ready, improving their engagement in learning, and helping them to make better transitions to work and further study.

When VET students complete their HSC, they are entering the full range of work and post-school study pathways including further study at university and TAFE NSW.

A new initiative in 2007 – Apprenticeships for school students

New South Wales is now building on the success of its VET in schools program by offering even more vocational opportunities for young people while they are at school.

In 2007, school based apprenticeships will be available to NSW students offering young people the opportunity to get an early start in a trade career.

What is a school based apprenticeship?

Students who obtain a part-time school based apprenticeship will enrol in a Certificate III trade course in a skill shortage area. They will receive their HSC and progress towards a Certificate III.

On average, these apprentices will spend a minimum of one day a week on the job with their employer.

For the rest of the week, they will complete the off-the-job component of their training as well as their other HSC subjects.

School based apprentices will continue working and training full-time once they graduate from school so they can gain their Certificate III qualification and become a qualified tradesperson.

Students undertaking a school based apprenticeship may count it towards university entrance if appropriate.

What trades will be offered?

Initially, school based apprenticeships will be available in trade areas at Certificate III level in:

- Automotive
- Construction
- Electrotechnology
- Hospitality (including Commercial Cookery)
- Metal and Engineering.

What are the benefits?

Students will:

- get paid for on-the-job attendance
- combine school, training and work
- undertake trade training that contributes to their HSC
- get credit towards a trade qualification and finish their apprenticeship a year earlier than they would have if they had started after they left school
- start a rewarding and challenging trade career.

Employers and communities will:

- have more young people entering trades, which will help tackle skill shortages and boost local economies.

A new model for NSW school based apprenticeships and traineeships

New South Wales is developing a new model for both school based apprenticeships and traineeships.

A discussion paper on the proposed model is available at:

<http://apprenticeship.det.nsw.edu.au/docs/consulpaper.pdf>

On 31 August, a forum chaired by Bert Evans AO was held on the proposed model, at the Masonic Centre in Sydney. It was well attended by a broad range of interested parties including representatives of industry and employer groups, unions, the school sectors, teachers and principals, TAFE NSW and private providers.

The forum covered areas such as the integration of part-time apprenticeships in the HSC, industrial coverage of school based apprenticeships, regulatory arrangements and the policy context.

The highlight of the forum was the session in which audience members were invited to ask questions of a panel of experts from the Board of Studies NSW, the Office of Industrial Relations and the Vocational Education in Schools Directorate, as well as the Commissioner for Vocational Training.

The discussion that followed further clarified and explained many key aspects of the model.

All comments from key stakeholders, whether submitted in writing or at the forum, will be considered for incorporation in the final version of the NSW model. Further information on the forum and the keynote speeches can be found at: www.skilling.nsw.gov.au.

For more information

If you would like more information on apprenticeships and traineeships and VET in schools, please consult the Departmental websites listed in the right hand column.

Skilling NSW

website at

<https://www.skilling.nsw.gov.au/snswp/>

Apprenticeships and Traineeships

website at

<http://apprenticeship.det.nsw.edu.au/index1.htm>

Vocational Education in Schools

website at

<https://www.det.nsw.edu.au/vetinschools/index.html>

TAFE NSW TVET

website at

<http://www.tafensw.edu.au/howex/servlet/Course?Command=GetTvetCourses>

The NSW Government's \$18 million trade school initiative is another key strategy that will open up more opportunities for young people across the state.

These schools will offer school based apprenticeships and have a strong focus on trade training at Certificate III level.

Ten new trade schools are being established in New South Wales.

- These centres will bring NSW government schools and TAFE NSW together with employers to provide cutting edge training in industry areas where there is demand for skilled workers.
- Trade schools will be introduced over the period 2007-2009.
- Five trade schools will be based in existing high schools and provided with upgraded industry-standard facilities, five will involve school-TAFE partnerships, using existing TAFE facilities.
- Each trade school will specialise in one or more trade skill shortage area including automotive, construction, metal and engineering, electrotechnology and hospitality and some will also offer health care courses (including aged care work and nursing studies).
- Students in trade schools will be able to undertake a VET in schools course or a school based apprenticeship or traineeship while completing their HSC.
- Trade schools will offer students access to specialist industry-standard training facilities and equipment.
- Courses in trade schools will be taught by highly trained vocational teachers from schools and TAFE NSW.
- Students will have access to new industry support services which will place them in jobs to undertake their training.
- Support will also be provided for employers to help them work with schools to establish part-time employment arrangements for school based apprentices.