

MEDIA STATEMENT

Attention: Editor/Chief of Staff

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WA Agri-Food College harvests National Training Award

In a true rags to riches story the Australian College of Training has taken out one of Australia's most coveted training awards. The College began 4 years ago in a 4 x 4 office in North Lake progressing to the College's new \$2.5 million dedicated Agri-food training facility in Victoria Park Western Australia.

At the 2008 Australian Training Excellence Awards in Darwin this month the College was awarded the Small Training Provider of the year (less than 1500 student enrolments). The College has been a finalist in the Western Australian Training Excellence Awards in 3 of its 4 years of operation and this year won the small training provider category to become eligible for the National Award.

The College offers traineeship programs and specialised skills training for the food, beverage and meat processing sectors. Australian College of Training currently has over 700 enrolled trainees and 400 students studying specialised programs. The College has grown to be the largest dedicated agri-food training facility in Australia.

Terrence Richards CEO of Australian College of Training said "The College's capability and excellence in training has not only gained National recognition but also has come onto the radar of international food companies. This was evidenced when a leading manufacturer, Tegel Foods from New Zealand chose the College to train and develop its operators and managers. The College's new partnership with Kansas State University, the world's leading milling university will enable an expanding international presence in milling training".

"With the rapid growth of the College this may be the last year that the College is eligible for the small training provider category" Mr Richards said.

In a recent report by the Auditor General it was reported that the TAFE sector in WA is only achieving a 16% completion rate for units commenced. "The College boasts a completion rate per unit in excess of 92% for both traineeships and Certificate IV and Diploma level qualifications" Mr Richards said.

The College's traineeship program assists in the retention of employees and building an effective and highly skilled workforce.

The College delivers many specialist programs that include HACCP (food safety risk management) and food safety auditing.

Christina Richards Director of Australian College of Training said “part of the College’s success is directly linked to our development of high standard training resources that makes learning accessible for people from non-English speaking background or students experiencing learning difficulties. The resources have also allowed the College to have a major impact on the quality of training delivery for Certificate IV and Diploma level food and meat qualifications”.

“The College’s success can also be attributed to the highly qualified and experienced training development and delivery team who deliver training to the food and meat industries on a 24/7 basis. The College’s high level of industry alignment and flexibility have enabled the College to secure a number of National agreements, these include being appointed as the National training provider for the flour milling and stock feed industries”. said Mr Richards.

“Achieving this award is timely for the College as it is now increasing its presence in overseas and export markets for training services. To be awarded as the best in Australia is a great marketing platform for the College in International markets” said Mr Richards.

Mr Richards said “the College is extremely appreciative of the support it receives from its clients, the agri-food industry, ACPET and government as all of these organisations and people define the College’s existence”.



Terrence and Christina Richards
CEO and Director of Australian
College of Training



Terrence and Christina Richards and
WA Minister for Education and
Training Hon Mr Peter Collier MLC



Terrence and Christina Richards, WA
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