



The Innovative Training Group Pty Ltd

Professional Development for New Field Officer

When selecting Mr Brad Page as Capitol Skills Centre's (CSC) new Field Officer for the ACT and Region, Ms Sue Charnock, Manager of CSC knew Mr Page had all the qualities needed for the position except one. Mr Page had limited IT knowledge and skills, making it very difficult to carry out the full range of duties required.

Ms Charnock applied to the Training Fund Authority seeking assistance with funding for Mr Page to undertake an ICT Empowerment Course at The Innovative Training Group. After subsequent approval, Mr Page attended 3 hours per day over a 9 day period. On completion Brad received a Statement of Attainment after completing 3 units of the Certificate I in Information Technology.

"On completion of the course Brad learnt a range of IT programs which has enabled him to perform his job to a high standard. I would recommend this course for people who require an introduction to computer applications," Ms Charnock said.

"Before working for CSC I worked in a trade environment for many years which limited the opportunities to understand and operate IT systems. The training I received from The Innovative Training Group has provided me with a range of IT skills including internet, email and word processing and has also enabled me to perform my day to day duties," Mr Page said.

Ms Donna Cox-Smith, Director and Trainer/Assessor, of The Innovative Training Group said "the ICT Empowerment Course is an introduction to computer applications aimed at empowering participants with the knowledge to understand basic functions of a computer and other applications as well as an introduction to the internet and email systems."

The ICT Empowerment course is an accredited course that is designed to provide participants with computer skills which will assist with the following:

- ♦ updating computer skills
- ♦ gaining confidence
- ♦ increase skills in your current job
- ♦ job applications
- ♦ communicating by internet and email



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Photo: Ms Donna Cox-Smith, Director Trainer/Assessor, The Innovative Training Group presenting Mr Brad Page, Field Officer, Capitol Skills Centre his Statement of Attainment, Certificate I in Information Technology.



The Canberra Careers Market is the largest event of its type in Canberra and is the best opportunity available to help young people in Canberra and the region to consider their post-school options.

There will be over 80 local and national exhibitors, including universities, career placement organisations, colleges, group training organisations providing a wide range of information sources.

It is anticipated over 6,500 students from 43 schools in Canberra and the surrounding region will attend this year's Market.

The Market will also incorporate the 'Try'a Trade' program offering various building and construction and electrotechnology trades and skills for students to 'get a taste' and get their hands dirty.



When: 6 and 7 August

Where: Australian Institute of Sport

Times: 9:00am to 2:30pm on both days, with an evening session from 5:30pm to 8:30pm on Wednesday

Entry is Free

Skilled migration and the workforce: An overview

- ◆ Australia clearly benefits from the movement of skilled workers in and out of the country. In 2004–05 there was a net gain of around 46,000 skilled migrants, two in three of whom were professionals.
- ◆ The number of skilled migrants has tripled in the past decade. They now account for close to half of all migrants. Skilled migrants represent a major source of supply for occupations experiencing employment growth, particularly in the professions and trades.
- ◆ Temporary migration has grown substantially and is most evident in the rapid rise in employer sponsored long-stay (or class 457) visas. This is in response to recent skill shortages, with most 457 visa holders employed in the professions and the trades.
- ◆ Migrants constitute 11% of employed people. They are relatively over-represented in the professions (14%) but under-represented in technical and associate professional occupations (10%) and the trades (9%).
- ◆ Many skilled migrants experience difficulties in finding employment in their occupational field, representing a loss of the potential benefits they bring to a job.

Source: National Centre for Vocational Education Research

Residential Building Approvals - April 2008

In trend terms, the number of residential building approvals in the ACT in April was 158, down 4.2% from the previous month. This is lower than the five-year monthly average number of approvals for the ACT (169). Year on year to April the number of residential approvals rose 3.7%.

Nationally, residential approvals fell by 0.6% to 13,000 in April. Year on year to April the number of residential approvals rose 3.7%.

The Government's Affordable Housing Action Plan, combined with the Government's announcement earlier this year to bring forward the release of an additional 1000 house blocks in 2007-08, should support growth in residential building approvals throughout the remainder of 2007-08 and into 2008-09. The decline in the relative attractiveness of alternative investments such as provided by the share market has also had an effect.

State/Territory Comparisons - Trend

During April 2008, most jurisdictions experienced a fall in building approvals with the ACT recording the largest fall (4.2%) followed by Victoria (down 1.2%). The Northern Territory (up 1.2%) and Tasmania (up 0.8%) were the only jurisdictions to record rises.

Source: ACT Department of Treasury, Economics Branch

Training Fund Authority Partner CIT in Innovative 'Trade Taster Program'

The Training Fund Authority and the Canberra Institute of Technology have entered into an partnership arrangement that will pilot a **'Trade Taster Program'**.

The Program has wide industry and government support and aims to promote building industry courses and careers to junior and middle school students in Canberra through targeted experimental learning activities.

There are three streams to the program, each offering fun, hands-on building industry experiences at an appropriate level to each age group. The streams offered cover broad trade experiences and information for year 7 and 8 groups, a focussed one-day trade program for year 9 groups and a five-day immersion program for year 10s.

Each stream also includes application of relevant numeracy and literacy skills necessary for employment in the industry. The streams developed for each stream will feature:

- ◆ simulated work tasks relevant to particular building trades
- ◆ sufficient time at each activity for students to appreciate the nature of work in the industry
- ◆ an element of fun in applying new skills and knowledge to real tasks
- ◆ age and task appropriate numeracy and literacy requirements that may connect with maths and English subjects which students are currently undertaking in school

The **'Trade Taster Program'** aims to build upon previous building trade education programs such as the **'Try'a Trade'** concept.

Whereas the 'Try'a Trade' program promoted the building industry to older students entering their final years of high school, the **'Trade Taster Program'** aims at reaching a wider age group from years 7-10 through targeted, age appropriate program streams and providing a deeper learning experience for students.

Chairman of the Training Fund Authority, James Service said "the Authority is very pleased to have the opportunity to work in partnership with the CIT to further promote and encourage opportunities for ACT schools students to undertake a wide range of tasks and skills relating to the building and construction industry."

Program evaluation

The Program's impact on trade course enrolments, apprenticeships and employment in the building industry will not be measured in the short term. CIT proposes continuous evaluation, annual reporting and a summative evaluation at conclusion of the three year pilot.



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