



Canberra Plumber Wins National Award Competition

worldskills
Australia

At the 2010 WorldSkills Australia National Competition held in Brisbane on 7-9 May, Gerard Allen, won a Gold Medal in the trade of plumbing.

Over the 3 days of competition, a field of over 500 competitors competed in up to 50 trade and skill categories which are judged against National and International benchmarks, training packages and employability competencies.

Gerard, a 4th year apprentice employed by MBA Group Training and hosted by Custom Plumbing, said "competing in WorldSkills was a fantastic opportunity to work with Australia's most talented and skillful apprentices, and working in a stressful environment having to meet deadlines was a very challenging and rewarding experience".

Canberra competitors, Damian Alexander-Kopernick, employed by the Australian Bureau of Statistics, won a silver medal in the category of PC Support. Justin Poidevin, won a bronze medal in the category of carpentry, and in the Vocational Education and Training in Schools category, Nathan Sandy, student at St Edmunds and employed by Rydges Canberra, won a bronze medal in Commercial Cookery.

WorldSkills Australia's primary function is to promote and celebrate skills and Vocational Education and Training through skills competitions.

WorldSkills Australia competitions operate on a two year cycle. [Regional](#) competitions flow into [National](#) competitions and winners, if eligible, will advance to the [International Competition](#) to represent their country. The 41st International WorldSkills Competition will be held in London 2011.

To date, WorldSkills Australia has seen over 50,000 young Australians participate in the various competitions over 25 years.

The Training Fund Authority is a major sponsor of the Canberra Regional WorldSkills Competition and the ACT team of apprentices who competed at the National Competition in Brisbane 2010. The Authority is committed to assisting construction workers to enhance their skills development under its professional development training program.



Free CPSISC WELL Workshops

The [Construction and Property Services Industry Skills Council](#) has been funded by the [Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations](#) Workplace English Language and Literacy ([WELL](#)) program to offer free practical workshops designed specifically for trainers in the construction industry.

Workshop participants will:

- Learn how to use the Australian Core Skills Framework ([ACSF](#)) (PDF 1.16MB) to identify learners' literacy and numeracy levels
- Apply their learning to two core Construction, Plumbing and Services Integrated Framework (CPC08) units of competency (Carry out measurements and calculations (CPCCCM1005A) and read and interpret plans and specifications (CPCCCM2001A))

The workshops have been designed as action learning, so participants can take what they learned about the ACSF and put it into practice.

There will be post-workshop activities available so that you can follow up the workshops by applying what you've learnt in your own context.

For details on the locations and dates of the workshops and to download the registration form, visit www.cpsisc.com.au/skills

The Canberra workshop will take place on 26 May. Places are strictly limited so register early to attend a free workshop to explore practical ways to support your learners.

For more information, contact Shevaun Quinn on shevaun.quinn@cpsisc.com.au



Photo: Gerard Allen, Gold Medallist at the 2010 WorldSkills Australia National Competition

Australian capital city house prices rise by 20 per cent in year to March

Quarterly Changes

- Preliminary estimates show the price index for established houses for the weighted average of the eight capital cities increased 4.8% in the March quarter 2010.
- The main contributors to the weighted average of the eight capital cities were Melbourne (+6.7%) and Sydney (+5.3%). The strongest growth in these two cities came from established houses with relatively high prices. There were also positive contributions from Perth (+3.5%), Brisbane (+2.0%), Adelaide (+2.7%), Canberra (+5.4%), Hobart (+4.2%) and Darwin (+3.6%).

Annual changes (March quarter 2009 to March quarter 2010) comparison

- Preliminary estimates show that the price index for established houses for the weighted average of the eight capital cities increased 20.0% in the year to March quarter 2010. This preliminary result is the largest annual increase since the series commenced in March quarter 2002.
- Annually, house prices rose in Melbourne (+27.7%), Sydney (+21.0%), Canberra (+20.6%), Darwin (+17.5%), Perth (+15.0%), Hobart (+14.1%), Brisbane (+12.1%), and Adelaide (+10.8%).

March Key Figures

	Dec Qtr 09 to Mar Qtr 10	Mar Qtr 09 to Mar Qtr 10
Established house prices	% change	% change
Weighted average of eight capital cities	4.8	20.0
Sydney	5.3	21.0
Melbourne	6.7	27.7
Brisbane	2.0	12.1
Adelaide	2.7	10.8
Perth	3.5	15.0
Hobart	4.2	14.1
Darwin	3.6	17.5
Canberra	5.4	20.6

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics

Australian Government Extends Kickstart Program



The Apprentice Kickstart Extension is available to employers who are small or medium enterprises (employers with less than 200 employees), including eligible Group Training Organisations, who employ an Australian Apprentice aged 19 years and under and who is undertaking a Certificate III or IV level qualification that leads to a skills shortage trade occupation.

The Apprentice Kickstart Extension triples Government incentives in the first year for eligible employers of young people commencing a trade apprenticeship between 12 May 2010 and 12 November 2010 (inclusive).

For further information on a range of initiatives, visit www.australianapprenticeships.gov.au

Training & IT Support Facility, providing Nationally Accredited Qualifications



Mantra Training & Development is Canberra's newest provider of computer and business training as well as computer service, repairs, support and advice to businesses and personal computer users.

Mantra offers personalised service with over twenty years experience in the training, computer hardware, information technology industry.

Mantra is a Registered Training Organisation offering nationally accredited courses and traineeships (Australian Apprenticeships) in Business, Financial Services and Information Technology and Training and Assessment. It offers several short courses, including a ten day IT Empowerment course that covers the basics of operating a personal computer, Microsoft word and using the internet and email.

Mantra offers short courses with a focus on Effective Supervision, improving your skills in customer service via a Professional First Contact course expanding your understanding of the 'Mind Your Own Business' accounting package via our MYOB course.

It also offers courses to assist women re-entering the workforce and provides on-site child friendly facilities for mothers attending courses.

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