

# Newsletter

Issue No. 27 | October 2007



ACT BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY  
**TRAINING FUND  
AUTHORITY**

## Building Degree Qualification - First in Australia

The establishment of a **Bachelor of Building and Construction Management** degree at the University of Canberra is the first degree of this type in Australia.

The Master Builders Association of the ACT, Hindmarsh Group and the Training Fund Authority, will contribute \$500,000 over the next five years towards the running of the new course which will commence early in 2008.

The Executive Director of the MBA, John Miller, said "the creation of the degree at the University of Canberra was very welcome in circumstances where the MBA had been pursuing the creation of a tertiary qualification for a number of years. The degree would represent the next step for those people who successfully graduated from the Master Builders Cadetship program launched in 2005."

Deputy Director of the MBA, Jerry Howard, said that the long-run benefit of the degree course was that a number of industry professionals would be likely to remain in Canberra and that previously such people had to travel to Sydney, Melbourne or Brisbane to obtain their tertiary qualifications and the danger is that they will not return.

Canberra developer John Hindmarsh said "the skills shortage was hitting the booming construction industry hard. Self interest prevails and we thought if we can not attract high-quality people, we should train them locally. Construction management is a very specialised area and our managers have the same high-level leadership, administration and negotiation skills that are required in other industries, but they have to know their way around a construction site, understand complex plans and speak the language of our industry."

Chairman of the Training Fund Authority, James Service said "the Authority is very supportive of the opportunity to work in partnership with industry and the University of Canberra to assist in funding the development and implementation of the **Bachelor of Building and Construction Management** degree, which will address a severe skills shortage in this area of Canberra's construction industry."

Pro vice-chancellor Professor Deborah Ralston said "the course demonstrated the university was responsive to the needs of industry. We were approached by industry and told they were desperate for graduates with these specialist management skills. We then worked with employers to tailor a course to their exact requirement."

Students will take a mix of management, economics and accounting subjects that are already on offer at the university. Students undertaking new courses specific to the construction industry will also have the option to take courses in related areas including architecture and sustainability.

The degree will be open to school leavers, Canberra Institute of Technology students and those already working in the industry.

Source: Canberra Times and [www.mba.org.au](http://www.mba.org.au)

**SAFETY**  
TRAINING &  
**COMPLIANCE**

## Profile - Safety Training & Compliance

**S**afety Training & Compliance Pty Ltd (STC) is a new ACT Registered Training Organisation which is committed to providing high quality training focused on making the workplace safer and providing service to all sectors of industry and business.

STC training is conducted either at their training facilities or at the workplace and undertake to provide outstanding customer service.

**Safety Training & Compliance Pty Ltd** provides training in the following courses:

**Height Safety** – Working at height is generally defined as occurring when any work is carried out at a location where you could fall 2 metres or more. Height Safety is a full day course that gives participants an essential understanding of the dangers of working at height. It provides the necessary skills to assess personal risk, the range of fall protection equipment and practical experience in its use.

**Electrical Awareness** - Is designed to provide participants with the essential understanding needed to safely perform work duties while working with electrical equipment

**Manual Handling** – Is any movement of an object be it pushing, pulling, lifting or any other associated action. Statistics show that Manual Handling is the most common cause of injury in Australia. As such it is of vital importance and relevant to all industries.

Training Manager, John Knott said "In accordance with the relevant Government legislation, STC provides participants with the appropriate training in Height Safety, Manual Handling and Electrical Awareness which will create a safer working environment. STC aim is to reduce workers exposure to risk by providing targeted, relevant and accredited safety training."

Eligible workers within the ACT building and construction industry may be reimbursed up to 80 percent of the cost of an approved training course conducted at STC from the ACT Building and Construction Industry Training Fund Authority.

For further information, contact Lynette at **Safety Training & Compliance** ☎  
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## Record amount of \$1.27 million for training

In financial year 2006-07, the Training Fund Authority provided a record amount of \$1,270,103 under its **Existing Worker and Professional Development** program. This figure represents an increase of \$296,966 over the previous financial year.

During the same period, the number of funded training places also recorded a record high of 7373 which is an increase of 2122 or 29 percent over the previous financial year.

The following table shows the sector and number of funded training places undertaken during financial year 2006-07.

Sector	Number of training places
OH&S	5750
General Construction	750
Finance, Business and Management	523
Electrotechnology	350

## New Laws for asbestos management in non-residential premises commenced

In September this year, new laws were passed in the ACT regarding asbestos in non-residential buildings. The new laws require that people controlling such buildings must create and maintain a current asbestos register and a management plan to ensure all materials containing asbestos are safety managed.

The Dangerous Substances (General) Regulation 2004 provides an asbestos-specific management and control regime for non-residential premises. The new regulation only applies to non-residential premises built before 31 December 2006, which is consistent with the date of a national ban on the importation, manufacture and use of asbestos products.

The new laws affect those who have control of a building and/or make decisions about the management of a building as an owner, occupier or property manager.

Further information about the new laws can be found on the ACT Government asbestos website at [www.asbestos.act.gov.au](http://www.asbestos.act.gov.au)

Source: Property Council of Australia, ACT Division

## Improve your skills and Professional Development

Thinking of undertaking training? The **Training Fund Authority** provides funds for the training of eligible workers in the ACT building & construction industry. Contact the Training Fund Authority ☎ 6262 5630 or applications can be downloaded at [www.trainingfund.com.au](http://www.trainingfund.com.au)



In its 20th year and anticipated record

numbers of people attending this years event, Floriade 2007 celebrated a uniquely Australian theme, "Aussie icons, myths and legends".

It all began in 1986 when two members of the ACT Parks and Conservation Service envisioned a huge floral display for the celebration of the 1988 bicentenary and Canberra's 75th birthday. Their inspiration was the annual Dutch Keukenhof flower display and Holland's Floriade which happens every 10 years. Canberra's Floriade is now the largest event of its kind in the southern hemisphere.

The name Floriade, comes from the Latin word floriat, which means to design with flowers. Over 1 million bulbs and annuals are used each year, depending on the design.

The bulbs and annuals are planted in autumn. Different flowers bloom at different times but there's always great colour throughout the event. It is constantly changing as the different plants come into flower.

There's a big mix of flowers and a huge kaleidoscope of colours. Some of the blooms include tulips, irises, daffodils, hyacinths, violas, chrysanthemums, ranunculas, English Daisies and special showcase gardens of new varieties.

Floriade is different every year and has a theme that is carried through from the shape of the garden beds to the type and colour of the flowers and the entertainment and activities program. It was designed by local consortium LANDSCAPEalign, which is made up of three Canberra companies who come together each year with their specialist skills to create the unique designs.

One of many features at Floriade is "The Boardwalk", (pictured below) which was constructed and installed by apprentices from the Construction Industry Training and Employment Association and funded by the Training Fund Authority.

Source: [www.floriadeaustralian.com.au](http://www.floriadeaustralian.com.au)

Photo: Training Fund Authority



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APPRENTICESHIPS**  
Your Life. Your Career. Your Future.

If your organisation has anything it wishes to publish in this newsletter, contact Ray Stowers on 6262 5630, e-mail [rstowers@trainingfund.com.au](mailto:rstowers@trainingfund.com.au) or fax 6257 5058