

Shaping a
thinking future.



Tasmanian Budget

07-08

Qualifications and Skills for
Tasmania Tomorrow

June 2007



Tasmania
Explore the possibilities

Qualifications and Skills for Tasmania Tomorrow

The *Qualifications and Skills for Tasmania Tomorrow* initiative will ensure that the educational excellence of our senior secondary colleges and the vocational expertise of our highly regarded TAFE Tasmania meet the needs of even more Tasmanians. It responds to the Tasmanian community's desire, set out in *Tasmania Together's* benchmarks, for lifelong education and training, and well qualified individuals and a skilled workforce.

More young and more mature-age Tasmanians will be able to take a course that meets their aspirations and suits their learning style. More Tasmanians will gain a post-school qualification, including the new Tasmanian Certificate of Education (TCE), and have greater life and work choices.

Our enterprises will be better able to train their staff and to be more productive.

By investing in more qualified and skilled people, and more productive enterprises, we will improve our society and economy. Not just for today, but for Tasmania tomorrow.

Under this initiative three new organisations will be created from our colleges and TAFE Tasmania, each focused on a specific role, using these working titles:

- an **'academy'** focused on academic learning, with a curriculum and academic pathway for Year 11 and 12 students seeking university entrance;
- a **'polytechnic'** focused on practical learning, with a vocational pathway, supported by academic courses as well, for both Year 11/12 and mature-age students seeking employment outcomes or university articulation; and
- a **training enterprise** focused on skills development for employees in enterprises, in line with their enterprise's skills needs.

Qualifications and Skills for Tasmania Tomorrow will begin in January 2009. I look forward to sharing your views on this initiative and to discussing with you its implementation.



David Bartlett MHA
Minister for Education

June 2007



Why We Need to Change

Currently, our post-Year 10 retention rates are too low and this means that many Tasmanians don't have post-school qualifications. We lag behind the rest of Australia with student completion of a qualification by Year 12 at 52% in Tasmania compared to 67% nationally, that's 15% lower. Right now, 86% of the jobs in Australia require a post-school qualification – in Tasmania only 47% of the workforce has that level of qualification.

Tasmania's productivity is also low compared to the national average. These factors, combined with our ageing population, mean that there is a risk of Tasmania not maintaining real income and living standards.

Current Structure

Currently, both colleges and TAFE Tasmania deliver a combination of post-school education courses and training courses:

- in colleges, academic (for university) and vocational (applied) courses; and
- in TAFE Tasmania, vocational (applied) courses, and training and courses for enterprises.

These courses demand different curricula, teaching, leadership, infrastructure, equipment and expertise.

Tasmania's colleges are providing excellent outcomes for many students, but they have to strive to provide 'all things to all students', when much of the vocational expertise is in TAFE Tasmania. Likewise, TAFE Tasmania provides excellent outcomes for many students, but they also have to strive to respond to enterprises that want more flexible training delivery. Both must split their energies and expertise to try to meet the very different learning needs of a wide variety of people.

The Response

Qualifications and Skills for Tasmania Tomorrow provides a positive policy response to these challenges. The initiative will reshape the mixed provision of colleges and TAFE Tasmania by creating three organisations, each one focused on a specific role.

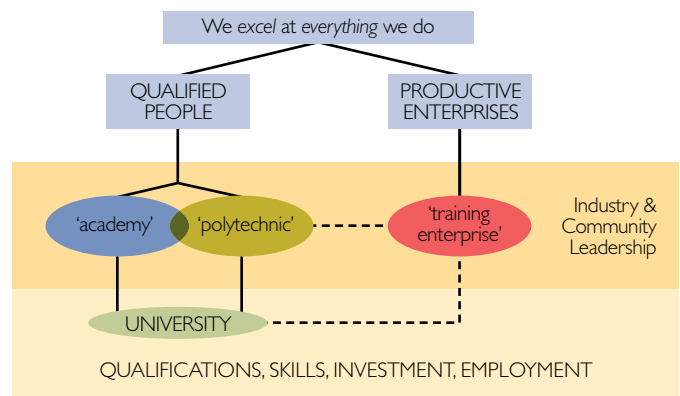
It will mean that young Tasmanians with aspirations for higher education and a professional career have the best possible chance to achieve their goal. It will enable more Tasmanians of all ages to gain skills and qualifications for work, and to effectively participate in society, through practical and applied learning. It will attract more young Tasmanians who leave school without a qualification, in a market where more and more jobs require one, to stay on in an institute specifically geared to their needs. It will mean that more Tasmanians can invest in learning.

It will give us a way to address future skills shortages and improve our short- and long-term economic future by delivering, in the workplace, the skills that people and productive enterprises need.

The Delivery Structure

...a prosperous lifestyle based on quality, creativity and opportunity.

Tasmania Together Vision 2006



The Institutes

Two Tasmanian post-school institutes will provide courses for students with different career goals. An 'academy' will be for students aiming to go to university. A 'polytechnic' will be for Years 11 and 12 and mature-age students seeking a career through university articulation or employment, and who prefer practical and applied learning with access to academic courses as required. Both institutes will provide a broad educational experience that, for young Tasmanians, will meet the requirements of the TCE.

An 'academy'

This institute will be for students aiming to go to university. It will have a pre-tertiary focus, and students will be able to develop their capacity for thinking, enterprise, communication, IT, and life skills. They will understand current and emerging careers, and will have a clear sense of where they are going and how they will get there. It will be connected to future careers.



A 'polytechnic'

This institute will be for students who learn best through practical and applied experience. It will have courses from certificate to diploma, and articulation to higher education. It will integrate education with work to provide students with qualifications which are meaningful to employers. It will also enable students to participate in arts activities, social experiences, and campus life. The institute will build pathways between schools, community, further education, and with current and future workplaces.

The Training Enterprise

A training enterprise will offer flexible training with choice for enterprises, when and how they need it. Enterprise staff can help train co-workers in their workplace alongside VET trainers. It will encourage industry investment in a training delivery model in which they share ownership and achieve outcomes.

The enterprise will cater for the training needs of Tasmanian businesses and their employees. This will include trainees and apprentices, and qualified tradespeople looking for post-trade skills. It will provide accessible and relevant processes for recognition of skills already developed by employees.

Development of skills in areas such as management, finance, and communication and information technology will be integrated with workplace requirements, and technical skills development as required. The focus of this enterprise will be on working in partnership with businesses to develop the skills sets and competency required for their specific work contexts and environments.

The enterprise will be governed by key representatives of Tasmanian enterprises and industries. One of the main aims of this enterprise will be to become commercially viable, and to shift away from high dependence on government-funded training towards a greater investment in training by businesses.

Further information

Please contact: Department of Education GPO Box 169 Hobart Tasmania 7001 Australia
Telephone: 1 800 469 997 Website: <http://tomorrow.education.tas.gov.au> Email: tomorrow@education.tas.gov.au

Implementation

A project team in the Department of Education will implement this initiative through to 'start up' of the three new organisations in January 2009. Its extensive scope of work will include:

- consultation with people in the sector and clients of the organisations;
- communication with everyone who has an interest in the outcomes of the initiative, including students, parents, employers, staff, and community and industry groups; and
- specific work tasks including workplace arrangements, legislation, organisational profiles, and transition arrangements. Staff will be represented on these work teams, as appropriate.

There will be regular communication and advice available as the project develops, and there will be many opportunities for people to have their questions answered. These will include formal information sessions in colleges and in TAFE Tasmania, as well as regular information on the Department of Education and TAFE Tasmania websites. As the project develops, there will be further information guides to assist students planning their courses for 2009 and beyond.

Information will be available for staff, and for the community on the Department of Education and TAFE Tasmania websites. Question and answer sheets for students and staff will be available on the websites.

If you have a question, email it to tomorrow@education.tas.gov.au. Alternatively, you can call 1 800 469 997 and talk to one of our project team who will arrange for you to receive a response.

You are encouraged to read the comprehensive version of this document, which will be available on the websites.