

TasTAFE

Staff Update

Issue 2 : November 2012

MESSAGE FROM KATHRYN THOMAS – CHAIR, INTERIM TASTAFE BOARD

I have spent my working life in education, the last 20 years in educating and building skills in adults.

Having been a Director and Interim Chair of the Tasmanian Polytechnic Board, and most recently a Director of the Tasmanian Skills Institute Board, I look forward to the great opportunity that we now all share to build on the success of both organisations.

As we create TasTAFE, a single public provider of vocational education in Tasmania, we bring together deep expertise, knowledge and talented teachers and trainers from across our existing VET providers.

Together we will ensure both our learners, and the industries that we serve, will benefit from the combined skills and resources of both organisations.

I look forward to working with you towards this goal.

Kathryn Thomas
Chair, Interim TasTAFE Board

STAFF FORUMS AT YOUR CAMPUS THIS MONTH

At our first round of state-wide staff forums in August, we talked about the characteristics of the Tasmanian community, the positive elements from the Skills Institute and Polytechnic we'd like to see transferred to TasTAFE, and finished by canvassing a range of issues as we move towards the establishment of TasTAFE.

There were more questions than answers when we first met. At the state-wide staff forums this month, our discussion will be more informed because the balance between answers and questions has shifted. This time we'll have more answers and progress to discuss about the establishment of TasTAFE because the various workgroups are already producing valuable results.

In this month's TasTAFE staff update there is a summary of the progress made by these workgroups. The second round of staff forums is important; it's your opportunity to help craft practical implementation through local practitioner knowledge and input.

I hope you're able to make it to the staff forum at your campus this month.

Mark Sayer
General Manager, Further Education and Training
Department of Education

Implementation Project Team
Department of Education



Register now!

Session times and dates have been confirmed for the November staff consultation sessions, and registrations are now being taken.

It is important that you register to enable the sessions to be well organised and effective for the purposes of both information sharing and gaining feedback from staff.

Please email Denise.Collighan@skillsinstitute.tas.edu.au at the Skills Institute or Mel.Gudden@polytechnic.tas.edu.au at the Tasmanian Polytechnic to register for one of the forums.

NORTH WEST

Burnie – Monday 19th November

9:30-11.00am Mooreville Road Campus (Room C2-11)
12pm-1:30pm Mooreville Road Campus (Room C2-11)
2.00-3:30pm South Burnie Campus (Room 2)

Devonport – Tuesday 20th November

9:30-11am Valley Road Campus (Room A2-28)
12pm-1:30pm Valley Road Campus (Room A2-28)

NORTH

Launceston – Monday 26th November

9:30-11am Alanvale Campus (Room A2-11/13)
12pm-1:30pm Alanvale Campus (Room A2-11/13)
2.00-3:30pm City Campus - T&H (Room H1-32)

SOUTH

Hobart – Tuesday 27th November (Clarence)

9:30-11am Clarence Campus (Room C1-04/05)
12pm-1:30pm Clarence Campus (Room C1-04/05)
2-3:30pm. Clarence Campus (Room C1-04/05)

Hobart – Wednesday 28th November (City)

9:30-11am Campbell St Campus (Room A4-05)
12pm-1:30pm Campbell St Campus (Room A4-05)
2-3:30pm. Drysdale Campus (Room A4-03)

WORKING GROUP UPDATES

Organisational Design

This working group comprises four teams which include around five members each.

Activity has stepped up for the workgroup in recent weeks. The first meeting included an assessment of potential TasTAFE design characteristics (as listed in the Simmons Report) versus the draft legislative Functions. The second meeting saw the start of draft designs for the new organisation.

At the forefront of each session is the decision for TasTAFE to service both the productivity and participation agendas. It is recognised that no single element is more important than the other and that the organisational design will allow functionality for both. Participants of this workgroup are drawn from equal numbers of the Polytechnic and TSI staff.

The workgroup does not have final say on how TasTAFE will operate; this will be considered by the CEO and the leadership team. The key aim for the workgroup is to present a range of design options, without attribution to the participants.

Legislation

Work is continuing on the package of legislation being developed for introduction into Parliament in the first half of 2013.

TasTAFE will be established within a new Vocational Education and Training Act, rather than in a stand-alone Act. In addition to TasTAFE, the new Act will encompass some system type issues such as purchasing of VET and management of training agreements. The 2008 Polytechnic and Skills Institute Acts have been used as the framework for the TasTAFE section.

The current focus of the Legislation Working Group is on the areas other than TasTAFE that must be included in the Act, as well as a range of other issues such as teacher registration and transitional provisions.

In relation to **teacher registration**, the Government accepted Ms Simmons' recommendation that teacher registration be extended across TasTAFE.

The Teachers Registration Board already registers VET sector teachers working in the Tasmanian Polytechnic and other school settings. As mentioned in Ms Simmons' report quite a number of teachers in the Tasmanian Skills Institute are also registered, notwithstanding that this is currently not mandatory. For many teachers, therefore, extension of registration to TasTAFE will mean a continuation of the current arrangements.

Amendments will need to be made to the Teachers Registration Act to extend registration to TasTAFE and this is being managed by the Legislation Working Group as part of the package of legislation that is being developed. The detail of those amendments is still being determined.

We know that people want to know what arrangements for registration will be. This is one element, however, of large and complex legislative drafting task with many issues to be resolved along the way. Please be assured that we are working to provide some detail on teacher registration as quickly as possible and will keep you informed on progress as we have something of substance to share.

Teaching Learning and Assessment

The Teaching Learning and Assessment Working Group is well underway and focused on specific tasks including providing information for the application to register TasTAFE as a Registered Training Organisation.

As part of their work, the TLA group has set up a series of sub-workgroups comprising representatives of the Polytechnic and the Skills Institute. The sub-groups are progressing matters relating to:

- Quality and compliance
- Enrolment and transition
- Student support
- eLearning
- Scope.

Staff in both organisations have been asked through their Learning Leaders or Unit Leaders to provide information about their vocational competence, and information about the prospective scope of registration is also being collected through Workforce Sector Leaders and Operations Managers.

TasTAFE Branding and Communication

The TasTAFE Branding and Communication Working Group's first priority is to develop formal strategies for internal and external communications, specifically for the period leading into the appointment of the CEO.

Other priorities include developing a visual identity for TasTAFE and updating signage.

A wide range of Tasmanian design consultancies will next week be asked to quote on the development of the visual identity, including proposing a process for consulting with stakeholders.

A request for tender for signage is currently being drafted.

The working group is conscious that communications and branding are vital to the work of many other groups, so there is a need for close collaboration over the coming months.

VET Finance

The VET Finance Working Group is developing a financial and budget model that will underpin TasTAFE.

The approach, based on the recommendations of the Simmons Report, is focussed on the development of a single model through the blending of those resources and those approaches that already support public VET provision in the TSI and in the Polytechnic.

Obviously there is a deal of complexity in that process, as well as the need to reflect on the experience of the two existing entities, but it is hoped that a relatively straightforward transition can be achieved.

The model will continue to rely on services being provided by the Department of Education and will, for the time being, require the continuation of the use of E5 as well as Finance One, in order to maintain links to QLS until a new student management system is available.

IT

The terms of reference, project plan and planned outputs have now been signed off and the group met for the first time on 16 October 2012. At this meeting it was decided a sub-group would be established to focus specifically on AVETMISS, QLS and the introduction of the unique student identifier.

The transfer of business systems, mapping of user accounts and creation of other infrastructure elements are mapped and responsibilities are allocated within the work group.

If you have any questions or would like to contribute information or feedback to any of the working groups, please email vetreview@education.tas.gov.au and the implementation team will forward your comments to the relevant working group for discussion.

PROJECT TIMELINES

Feedback from the last issue indicated it would be useful to provide a summary of the key stages of the project mapped across 2012/13. The following chart maps out the high level activities of most relevance to staff. Please note that some of these are fixed deadlines whilst others are target dates:

2012		2013						
NOVEMBER	DECEMBER	JANUARY	FEBRUARY	MARCH	APRIL	MAY	JUNE	JULY
ASQA Registration submitted								
CEO appointed and commence								
		Organisational Design finalised						
Work commences on Asset Management								
			Strategic and Operational Plans developed					
			Branding and Identity completed					
				Legislation passed through Parliament				
				Enrolments and transitions finalised				
					Final testing of IT systems			
								TasTAFE enrolments

MORE INFORMATION

Information about the implementation process is available from the Department of Education's website: www.education.tas.gov.au. Look for *Reform of Tasmania's VET System* in the "In Focus" area of the website.