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Career Advice Australia



# Regional Networker e-news

News and views on industry careers and skill needs for the South Brisbane, Redland Bay and Gold Coast North Region

RICA Region 30  
Issue 8 - September 2009

## Heavy Duty Vehicle Tours

The Brown and Hurley Group truck dealership and tanker manufacturer, Holmwood Highgate, opened their doors to more than one hundred secondary school students from the Logan and Beenleigh districts, providing an informative day which showcased the career available to students within their businesses and the wider industry.

The tour, held on Wednesday, August 26, was the first to be jointly organised by CVIAQ and local community partnership groups, Logan School to Work Inc and Beenleigh Region Industry Training Network.

The industry tour was supported extensively by the local schools in terms of genuine interest and high student attendance.

The host companies proved to be the right mix in showcasing to students the wide range of exciting career opportunities that the commercial vehicle industry has to offer.

Students and teaching staff gained insight in to roles available in the manufacturing and service and repair sectors, as well as in sales, spare parts and administrative operations.



Local students gained an on-site awareness of industry operations during their tour of companies, Brown and Hurley Group and Holmwood Highgate.

Schools from Logan involved in the day included Marsden State High School, Loganlea State High School, Park Ridge State High School, Mabel Park State High School and the Centre Education Program Kingston. Schools from the Beenleigh district included Windaroo Valley State High School, Trinity College and Beenleigh State High School.

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## What's coming up:

**September 16:** Redlands Workplace Training Group School Industry Leaders Forum

**October 14:** Building Tomorrows Workforce Morning with Industry Forum

**October 19:** Skillstech School Industry Forum

**October 21:** Multicultural Learning and Skilling Expo



*Travis Windsor*

**Travis Windsor**  
**Regional Industry Career Adviser**  
**Career Advice Australia**  
*An Australian Government Initiative*

## This newsletter

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## Heavy Duty Vehicle Tours cont.

The 2009 CVIAQ Schools to Industry Tour continues the tradition established by tours in other school districts in enabling students to make well informed choices about apprenticeships, traineeships and work experience within the commercial vehicle industry as they prepare to leave school and enter the workforce.

Earlier in the year, Anita Cannon and the team at South West Career Connect in conjunction with CVIAQ ran similar tours with Black Truck Sales, Rocklea and Lusty EMS, Richlands.

For further information contact: Paul Woodland from CVIAQ on 07 3376 6266 or [p.woodland@cviaq.asn.au](mailto:p.woodland@cviaq.asn.au).

## Contribution of VET

NCVER have recently released a paper, *The contribution of vocational education and training to Australia's skills base*, which discusses the various aspects of vocational education and training's (VET) contribution to the labour market, including the relationship between their training and the occupations VET graduates work in; the extent to which the qualified proportion of the workforce has increased; and the link between VET and skills acquisition.

In 2007, over 1.67 million students were enrolled in the public VET system, that's equivalent to around one in nine people aged between 15 and 64 years.

With a considerable proportion of Australia's population in the VET system, this results in a steady flow of qualified people with a wide range of skills into the workforce each year. However the report suggests that VET completion rates of full qualifications are relatively low, with many students obtaining particular modules of work, rather than a complete qualification.

NCVER's data from its Students Outcome Survey suggests that there isn't a strong link between qualifications and particular jobs, with VET often providing a broad set of employability skills for students.

The report highlights a weakening of the VET sector compared to university educations, with data results recorded between 1996 to 2006 showing that the number of students who have obtained a university qualification has increased faster than the number of students with a VET qualification. This reflects the trend towards achieving high level qualifications.

Finally, the report puts forward two implications for VET as a result of the economic crisis including that the demand for training will be affected and that there will be long term ramifications in the training sector.

Download the full [The contribution of vocational education and training to Australia's skills base](#) paper.



## SCIPS School Leaver Night

On Wednesday, August 26, SCIPS held their annual school leaver night, showcasing a variety of career options and pathways available to young people. Over 200 students attend on the night, many of who were accompanied by their parents.

There were 40 exhibitors from a range of industries and training organisation. One of the mores popular exhibitors, Shane Johnstone from AFL Queensland (pictured below) spoke about careers in sport. An exit survey revealed that the attendees thought the event was both excellent and helpful!



## Ask the Children: I Want to Work Report

In 2007, the NSW Commission for Children and Young People conducted a follow up study of 1,568 children in government schools aged between 12 – 16 years. The study was conducted to support the Commission's policy work on implementing recommendations arising from a survey of 11,000 school children in Years 7 – 10 in 2003.

The recently released *Ask the Children* report suggests that work opportunities enable children to discover what they like and value, as well as learning that they have important roles to play and that they can do things to help other people. It is considered that on the whole, work is a positive activity for young people. However, its needs to be understood from the outset that the work performed by 13 -16 year old falls outside the standard definitions that apply to adult work.

The study found that it is actually quite difficult for children to determine exactly what type of work they enjoy and obtaining work opportunities. Feedback from the children suggests that career counseling at school is tailored more towards older students and is focused on adult careers. However, children's journeys begin in their earlier years of schooling and involve shorter-term decisions regarding their potential work opportunities, and career support should consider these factors.

*Ask the Children* suggests that regulatory support should be provided to ensure that the inexperience of children does not disadvantage them during their employment. Support systems should be put in place to ensure that they have a successful transition from school to work and are able to access information and advisory services.

From the research it was discovered that a better understanding of the informal labour market needs to be developed and that children should be better supported in their transitions into the formal labour market.

Download the full [Ask the Children: I Want to Work Report](#).

## About Career Advice Australia

Career Advice Australia (CAA) is an Australian Government initiative aimed at supporting all young Australian's aged 13 to 19 in their transitions through school and from school to further education, training or employment.

The CAA Network comprises two tiers of industry career advice including 10 National Industry Career Specialists and 57 Regional Industry Career Advisers which provide young Australians with improved access to high quality information on career opportunities in industry and assist Australian Industry address skill needs and engage in young people's career development.

Other key elements of the CAA Network are the Local Community Partnerships, Youth Pathways and Connections programs. For more information, visit [www.careeradviceaustralia.gov.au](http://www.careeradviceaustralia.gov.au)

Among other activities the initiative will assist in building bridges between young people and local businesses by:

- establishing Adopt A School programmes,
- supporting increased participation in Structured Workplace Learning programmes, and Australian School based Apprenticeships, and
- providing a range of Career and Transition Support services, involving local businesses wherever possible.

### Looking Towards the Upturn



The Ai Group/American Express report - Looking Towards the Upturn - surveyed 500 businesses in manufacturing and construction.

Many respondents believe that the economic conditions are improving but that a turn around in the economy will be slower compared to previous declines and recovery will be inconsistent across the sectors.

One in six of those surveyed believe an improvement is already underway, albeit a

weak one, with this building to a majority as we move into 2010.

#### Key findings:

- The issue of skill shortages still resonates with many firms, despite job cuts in the first half of 2009, with 27.5% of respondents considering skills development and training to be a high priority when the economy recovers. This was particularly important for medium sized companies;
- The most popular revenue side strategy in the downturn is improving sales of current product and service lines. 68.1% of firms cited this approach as being of high importance. Small firms ranked this strategy the highest (71.4%);

### Looking Towards the Upturn cont.

#### Key findings cont:

- Reducing operational costs is by far the most cited strategy through which companies are managing their costs. 57.9% of respondents stated that this was of high importance. Large firms appear to have the greatest scope to reduce operational costs (cited by 65.8%), while micro firms appear to have the least scope (45.9%);
- 41.0% of companies saw a positive cash flow impact from strategies to deal with the downturn, while 35.8% have seen a negative or no impact on their cash flows. Cash flow benefits varied with firm size, with 55.4% of large firms citing a benefit compared to 24.2% of micro firms;
- Micro and small companies generally saw the pick-up coming later than large firms;
- One in every six respondents believed an improvement in business conditions was already underway, with a further one-quarter of all respondents expecting an improvement in economic conditions in either the third quarter (10.5%) or fourth quarter (14.7%) of 2009. The first and second quarters of 2010 are equally popular responses, with 16.4% and 16.0% of companies anticipating an improvement in these periods respectively.

Overall, the report suggests that the confidence of Australian businesses has increased however, the turn around in the economy is likely to occur slowly and will be a very different from one sector to the next.

Download the full [Looking Towards the Upturn – Business Strategies and Priorities](#) report.

**For further information, contributions or feedback:**

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