LTC’s regional road trips

The LTC has conducted two regional road trips this year. The first was to the South West region in March when the LTC visited a number of stakeholders in Bunbury and Busselton. These included key local organisations and transport companies, warehouses and wholesalers. Staff were also given a tour of the port by the Harbour Master who outlined the planned expansion and impact of new projects on the region. Whilst Bunbury is seen as a fast growing city with an attractive lifestyle, there is still a shortage of workers in some areas, particularly MC drivers in the transport industry.

The second trip was conducted in May when the LTC joined forces with the Retail and Personal Services (RAPS) Training Council to travel to the Kalgoorlie/Esperance region. This included a stop off in Northam before heading to Kalgoorlie to meet with a number of key local organisations and transport companies, as well as Kalgoorlie VTEC and Kalgoorlie Airport. It has been identified that there is a massive shortage of workers in the Kalgoorlie area as projects ramp up, but local organisations are working together to devise strategies to attract and retain their workforce.

The next stop was Esperance where the training councils attended a local School Community Partnership Broker meeting hosted by the Chamber of Commerce and Industry. The LTC also visited the Esperance Port Authority, Esperance VTEC and Esperance Freightlines, a company which also has businesses in Kalgoorlie, Geraldton and Perth.

Both trips were very informative and gave insight into the issues associated with these fast-growing regions, as well as strategies in place to address them. The organisations contacted were helpful and enthusiastic and very keen to work with the training councils. Thanks to all those organisations that took the time to talk to us during our trips.
The LTC welcomes new Minister for Training

The LTC welcomes the announcement of the new Minister for Training and Workforce Development and Corrective Services, the Hon. Murray John Cowper MP and congratulates him on his new portfolio.

Mr Cowper takes on the portfolio of Training and Workforce Development and Corrective Services following his appointment by the Hon. Colin Barnett.

Transport Women Australia “Moving with the Times” conference

The Annual Transport Women Australia conference which was held on 22 and 23 June in Melbourne was attended by more than 90 delegates from around Australia, ten of which came from WA. This included the LTC’s CEO, Jillian Dielesen, and Senior Consultant, Norma Nisbet. There was also representation from the TLISC.

International guest speakers included Ellen Voie, President/CEO, Women in Trucking USA, who shared some of the challenges and initiatives being undertaken by the organisation in the USA and Richard Parkes from Kea Petroleum in New Zealand. Richard joined Cindy Dunham from Rio Tinto and spoke about the importance of transport to mining and the similarities between the two industries.

Other topics of great interest included Safety at Work, How to Avoid Insolvency, Health and the Environment and a panel discussion on skills shortages in all sectors.

The conference was a great opportunity to network with both women and men from other transport organisations and to address some of the issues facing the industry.

Note: Transport Women Australia was formed in 1999 by an enthusiastic group of women involved in the road transport industry. It now has a leading role in representing women in the road, rail, maritime and air sectors across the country. To find out more go to www.transportwomen.com.au.
Interview with Jodie Wallace on Skilled Migration

Tell us a little about the work of Skilled Migration?

Skilled Migration is a new branch of the Service Delivery directorate at the Department of Training and Workforce Development and includes three specific areas – Skilled Migration WA, Skills Assessments International and the Overseas Qualifications Unit.

Can you share your thoughts on how Skilled Migration’s efforts are contributing to the general push to combat the skills shortage?

The Skilled Migration Branch provides services which assist employers and intending migrants along the pathway to applying for permanent skilled visas. Additionally, services provided by the Overseas Qualifications Unit assist temporary workers (such as those on working holiday visas) undergo an assessment of their qualifications so they can gain employment in Western Australia. Our contribution to assist with the skills shortage is that over 10,000 clients were assisted in one way or another during 2011-2012.

What role does Skilled Migration play in meeting Western Australia’s labour needs?

The Department of Training and Workforce Development has published two key documents – Skilling WA and the WA Skilled Migration Strategy. Whilst the first preference is for Australians to gain employment, predictions are that job growth will mean more jobs than workers in the foreseeable future. Skilled migration is therefore an important component of workforce development planning.

Can you tell us of any future plans at Skilled Migration?

Plans in the Skilled Migration branch are currently to increase awareness of our programs with employers, particularly in the area of skills assessments. A major part of this strategy is web-based, to provide more information about, and accessibility to, our services.

For further information about the Skilled Migration services offered by the Department of Training and Workforce Development, please contact Jodie Wallace, Director Skilled Migration jodie.wallace@dtwd.wa.gov.au

Budget 2012-13: - Huge investment in training and transport infrastructure

The State Government will inject $77.6 million from the Royalties for Regions program over four years from 2011-12 to 2014-15 to implement the Skills Training Initiative and develop high-quality training infrastructure throughout Western Australia to ensure the State is in the best position possible to meet the projected skills shortage.

A total of $110.6 million would be spent over the life of the Skills Training Initiative, primarily on the provision of major capital works at training sites in WA, with $14.9 million being invested in 2012-13 alone.

The Skills Training Initiative will enable refurbishments and upgrades for regional training facilities; the development of dedicated regional training centres to meet industry and community needs; and the replacement of out-dated and failing IT infrastructure across the State Training Provider network.

The Federal Government has also committed to building and upgrading rest areas across the nation as part of a multi-million dollar package that will also target vital road infrastructure projects. Treasurer Wayne Swan has set aside $140 million over seven years to continue the Heavy Vehicle Safety and Productivity Program, which started in the 2009 financial year.
National agreement on modular B-triples

Australia’s transport ministers have agreed to a national set of road network access and operating conditions for modular B-triples that will enable these vehicles to have access to the current type 1 road train network on the same basis as double (Type 1) road trains.

While B-triples presently operate in many parts of Australia, including WA, these vehicles have been disadvantaged by inconsistent state and territory road access and operating conditions. National Transport Commission (NTC) Chief Executive, Nick Dimopoulos described the decision as a win for industry and the community.

“Modular B-triples are safe, efficient vehicles. They have been designed to allow industry to utilise their existing B-double equipment, giving industry the flexibility to mix and match equipment according to their level of road access,” said Mr Dimopoulos.

“Not since the introduction of B-doubles has Australia had a similar opportunity to impact so positively on the road transport industry’s triple bottom line.”

The NTC estimates that this decision by ministers will prevent many fatalities, result in a reduction of CO2 emissions of 1.1 million tonnes and generate an estimated $1.1 billion in productivity savings (Net Present Value) by 2030. This financial gain derives from both reduced vehicle numbers and kilometres travelled.

CEO’s Visit to Karratha

On 21 June the State Training Board conducted its annual regional trip to Karratha with the Training Councils. The LTC’s CEO took part in this visit, which included a trip to Dampier Port and the Pilbara Institute, and consultations with local industry, community groups, schools and RTOs. The LTC was able to meet with relevant industry stakeholders and identify any issues and strategies to address them, all vital when developing the next Workforce Development Plan.

Training Providers Forum 2012

The Annual Training Providers’ Forum, which is aimed at all those involved in workforce development and the delivery of training, was held at the Burswood Entertainment Complex on 14 and 15 May 2012. More than 500 delegates from government; private and state training providers; schools and other industries attended the successful event which was opened by the Minister for Training and Workforce Development, Hon Peter Collier, MLC.

Day One of the forum featured keynotes, presentations and information sessions focussing on trends and key issues in workforce development and training. The theme for Day Two was pathways for learners with a focus on VET in schools, career development, apprenticeships and traineeships.

The LTC’s CEO, Jillian Dielesen, conducted an information session entitled “How registered training providers can work with industry on their workforce development needs” This was very well attended and feedback was very positive. Many organisations, including the LTC, manned information booths.
**Skilled West Expo 2012**

The Skilled West Expo is being held over three days (Friday – Sunday) from 10 to 12 August and will showcase the best tertiary institutions, training colleges, employers, industries and Government initiatives currently underway in Western Australia.

Come and visit the Logistics Training Council which is sharing a booth with the Australian Furniture Removers Association (AFRA) where we will offer advice on careers in Transport and Logistics to school leavers and career changers.

This event is free entry to the general public and will again be held at the Perth Convention Exhibition Centre.

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**Investing in Experience (Skills Recognition & Training)**

Investing in Experience (Skills Recognition & Training) (IIE-SRT) is an Australian Government program which commenced on 1 July 2012. The program will provide $20 million over two years to support up to 5,000 mature age workers (aged 50 years and over) to gain nationally recognised qualifications. It is designed to provide an opportunity for mature age workers to have their current capabilities recognised and to receive training to fill any knowledge or skills gaps. They can then obtain a nationally recognised qualification at the Certificate III to Advanced Diploma level.

Under the IIE-SRT program, employers can apply for grants of up to $4,400 (including GST) to assist their mature age workers to undertake a skills assessment and obtain gap training if the skills assessment identifies a need. Funding is payable as follows:

- $3,300 is payable on completion of a skills assessment and commencement of any identified gap training.
- A further $1,100 is payable on completion of any identified gap training.

**Productivity Training Boost**

An increasing number of employers are recognising productivity improvements in their business as a result of training their employees, the Transport and Logistics Industry Skills Council's 2012 Environmental Scan has found.

TLISC CEO Robert Adams said one of the most encouraging findings of the 2012 E-Scan was that more employers were recognising the benefits of training to their business bottom line.

"Post-training benefits to businesses include overall increases in business productivity, improved OHS and reduced errors and lost time," Mr Adams said.

Among the challenges facing the Transport and Logistics Industry identified in the 2012 E-Scan are:

- The ageing of the workforce.
- Workforce attraction, retention and effective skills utilisation.
- The need for higher level skills across the workforce.
- Sufficient and more comprehensive data to support better planning for future skill needs.
Rail Training Package Update

The Transport & Logistics Rail page has been updated with news of the latest developments related to the rail training package.

These include the review of track protection units of competency and the development of a number of new qualifications and skill sets. All are available for comment and the TLISC would welcome your feedback.

The update also includes information on the ongoing development of other qualifications. Follow this link to view the updates: tlisc.org.au/training-packages/rail-training

Workplace English Language and Literacy (WELL) Broker Update

Following the success of the WELL Broker program, The Department of Industry, Innovation, Science, Research and Tertiary Education (DIISRTE) has extended the opportunity to all Industry Skills Councils to take on this important role for the 2012/2013 year. The WELL Brokers assist industry to:

- identify where low levels of language, literacy and numeracy skills are affecting workplace productivity;
- provide links to qualified WELL practitioners and;
- assist with completing and submitting applications for funding.

The TLISC is happy to announce that our current WELL Broker, Simone Reinertsen, will continue in this position and will further build on the success of existing projects.

- John Holland Rail
- VLine
- Qantas
- Australia Post
- NSW Taxi Association
- Metro Tasmania
- TDT Victoria
- Australia Post

Current recipients of WELL funding in the T&L sector include:

The TLISC has identified the Northern Territory and Western Australia as priority areas for WELL Broker activity in 2012/2013. Conversations with a number of WA clients are already progressing to application stage and further interest is sought. If you would like more information about how the WELL program could assist your business please contact Simone on (03) 9604 7214 or simone.reinertsen@tlisc.org.au

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