



New model to revolutionise the apprenticeship system

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THE Australian Technical College – Western Sydney (ATC-WS) came into being in October 2006 when a group of respected industry bodies and the Sydney Anglican Schools Corporation joined together to establish a senior secondary school.

Australian Technical Colleges are a completely new concept in secondary education. A consortium of education and industry partners made up of the Sydney Anglican Schools Corporation, Master Plumbers Association, Master Builders Association, Master Painters Association, Motor Traders Association, National Electrical and Communications of Australia and the Hospitality Training Network have come together to form The Australian Technical College – Western Sydney.

ATC-WS students are all indentured to the group training companies associated with the relevant industry partner (listed above). They are all part-time Australian school-based apprentices who:

- Attend school to study for their Higher School Certificate;
- Attend MTA Training;
- Attend work and get paid (on the job training).

In 2007 21 students commenced an ATC pattern of study at Rouse Hill Anglican College. 2008 will see 150 students commence their senior schooling and part time apprenticeships with ATC-WS at the new site in Quakers Hill. Students will be placed in pairs so that employers will have a stage one apprentice on site at all times. That is, students will alternate between work and school so that when apprentice one is at work apprentice two is at school and visa versa.

ATC-WS students will complete stage 1 of their apprenticeship whilst they complete their Higher School Certificate. Students are mentored and supported by both ATC-WS staff and group training field officers – giving them the best of both worlds. They will then transition directly into full time employment in stage 2 of their apprenticeship with their group trainer.

This new concept in secondary education is set to revolutionise the apprenticeship system. Students who



know they want to do a trade can get started whilst they complete their education. Employers will end up with motivated, well trained employees who have been supported through the first stage of their apprenticeship.

In 2007 MTA Apprenticeships Plus employed three school-based

apprentices at various sites through NSW. In consultation with host employers we have found this system is an excellent alternative to the traditional mean of employing apprentices.

In 2008 we hope to roll out an additional 16 school-based apprentices into our industry. If you are considering taking on apprentices in 2008 and may be considering the school-based apprentice system then please do not delay, give our friendly team at MTA Apprenticeships Plus a call today on 1300 130 682.