



**Doug Parkinson, MLC**  
Deputy Leader of the Government in the  
Upper House  
Tuesday, 6 July 2004

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## **Derwent Valley Diploma Graduation**

The Derwent Valley community will be more qualified to manage the future with the formal graduation of eight small business owners, who participated in two Government-funded training programs.

Legislative Council member for Wellington Doug Parkinson said today the whole community would benefit from the \$900,000 Business Skills Development Initiative, and Environmental Tourism Training and Employment Program, which aim to improve business skills of participants.

"These eight dedicated small business owners in the Derwent Valley have been studying the subjects of Strategic Planning, Marketing and Human Resources for the past four months," he said.

"This innovative project has been funded by the Office of Post-Compulsory Education and Training, and training is conducted by registered training organisations such as TAFE and Jenard Training and Personnel."

Mr Parkinson said the participants wrote a strategic plan for their business, designed, coordinated, and marketed a calendar for the Valley, and each wrote a human resource manual to use as a working document to develop their people power.

"Each of these tasks has provided practical, useful skills and ideas to local businesses that will provide better service delivery for the entire Derwent Valley community and visitors to the region," he said.

"It also goes to show that education and training doesn't stop at Year 10. We must now think about learning as a lifelong commitment, and this is the foundation of *Tasmania: A State of Learning* launched by the State Government last year.

"These Derwent Valley business owners are leading the way for their community, and I encourage people to become inspired by their achievements and sign up for a course or two themselves."

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**Further information:** Tasmanian Government Communications Office

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