



Doug Parkinson, MLC

Deputy Leader of the Government in
the Legislative Council

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INSTITUTE OF TAFE TASMANIA RECOGNISES MORE THAN 900 GRADUATES

A new group of skilled Tasmanians have graduated from the State's largest training provider, the Institute of TAFE Tasmania, following a ceremony held at Wrest Point Casino.

Speaking at the first ceremony for southern based TAFE graduates, Labor Member for Wellington Doug Parkinson, commented on the important contribution the 906 graduates would make to their own communities and the Tasmanian economy.

"This ceremony recognises graduates in business, marketing and management, finance, information technology, project management, contact centre, built environment and building surveying, engineering and electrotechnology and library and museum technology – all industries which will benefit from the achievements and upskilling of these graduates," he said.

Mr Parkinson said that the State Government had invested in vocational education and training to help lift the State's participation rate.

"This investment is paying dividends – since 1998 the number of 15-64yr olds participating in education and training has increased by 35%, the number of apprentices and trainees has increased by over 150% plus an extra \$32 million has been assigned to directly address skills shortages," he said.

Mr Parkinson said that TAFE Tasmania had directly benefited from

the Government's investment, and here in the South of the State the results were very pleasing.

"In the last two State Budgets the Government has provided an additional \$2.1 million to TAFE Tasmania to support increased training demand and an increase in the number of people participating in the workforce," he said.

Mr Parkinson said that meeting the skills requirements of business and industry also required their support.

"Training is a partnership with industry – enterprises must take on new apprentices and take advantage of the full range of training opportunities available," he said.

Mr Parkinson said that many Tasmanian enterprises and peak industry groups had already shown their support for training through sponsorship of prizes at tonight's graduation ceremony.

"Hazel Bros, Print Mail Logistics, Jet Recruitment, Hydro Tasmania and Comstra, just to name a few of the Tasmanian enterprises equally investing in training and Tasmanians," he said.

Over the next two weeks more than 1800 TAFE Tasmania graduates will be recognised in ceremonies to be held around the State.

This initiative is part of the State Government's commitment to progressing Tasmania Together Goal 18 to "ensure education and training provides our workforce with the skills to support our business and industry."

Further information: Sue Bailey 6233 2305