



Doug Parkinson, MLC

Thursday, 2 December 2004

VET enrolments record major growth

Embargoed til 7.30pm.

Tasmania's booming vocational education and training sector has received another boost with a further 230 students graduating with nationally-recognised qualifications.

Speaking at the Elizabeth College VET graduation in Hobart tonight, Deputy Leader of the Government in the Legislative Council, Doug Parkinson, said the number of VET enrolments in Tasmania had grown from just 100 in 1993 to more than 3500 in 2004.

"There have been over 240 expressions of interest in the VET in Schools program for 2005 at Elizabeth College alone," he said.

"VET programs have been part of the Elizabeth College curriculum for 10 years, with over 1200 students graduating during that time."

Mr Parkinson said that many students had gained part-time or casual work as a direct result of the program.

"Over 90 per cent of the students who undertake a VET program at Elizabeth College are engaged in either work, study or training six months after leaving their program," he said.

"I'd like to congratulate the 350 businesses who have developed strong partnerships with Elizabeth College in training the students and providing support on local VET in Schools committees.

"The VET in Schools program delivers nationally-accredited qualifications to graduates and complements the State Government's strategy for post-year 10 education and training, Tasmania: A State of Learning, which aims to encourage lifelong learning for everyone."

WHEN: 7.30pm, Thursday 2 December

WHERE: Stanley Burbury Theatre University of Tasmania

Churchill Ave, Sandy Bay

Further information: Tasmanian Government Communications Unit

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