

QUALITY TRAINING LINKED TO INDUSTRY

CAMPASPE COLLEGE OF ADULT EDUCATION – A SKILLS FIRST TRAINING PROVIDER CASE STUDY

Campaspe College of Adult Education has delivered quality education and training to the Echuca community for 35 years.

A Learn Local organisation, Campaspe provides education and training to disadvantaged people seeking employment, and to those already employed and seeking to upgrade their qualifications.

A key strength that underpins the quality of Campaspe’s accredited vocational courses is the close relationships between its teachers and trainers, and local industries and employers.

Karen Hagan, the General Manager of Campaspe, identified courses offered in cookery and business as two examples of where its teachers’ close relationships to local industry have generated workplace-relevant training and positive job outcomes for students.

Certificate III in Commercial Cookery

The cookery teacher at Campaspe runs his own business as a chef and provides ‘locum’ services to diverse hospitality businesses across the region. This means he has continual interaction with local employers and a strong understanding of their skills needs.

These relationships enable him to select course electives for students that respond to changing trends in the industry and to the specific needs of local employers.

For example, the teacher ensures that cookery classes at Campaspe focus on improving specific cookery techniques that local employers advise are required but they don’t have time to help employees develop on the job. Small class sizes also enable students to receive one-on-one attention and consolidate skills developed throughout their course.

The cookery teacher’s connection with local industry networks enable a strong understanding

“Our teachers live and work in the local area, they have long-term relationships with local employers and they genuinely love making a positive difference to the lives of students.”

Karen Hagan, General Manager, Campaspe College of Adult Education

of skills needs outside the restaurant and café sector. He finds work placements for students in businesses such as butchers, bakeries and speciality food businesses, which expands their skills base and future employment options.

Certificate IV Accounting

Campaspe’s accounting teacher also operates her own business services firm, ensuring she maintains current industry knowledge of accounting laws and practices.

Most of Campaspe’s accounting students are already operating their own business or employed within a business, and are seeking to formalise or upgrade their skills and qualifications.

The teacher works closely with these students to understand the particular needs of the business they work within and to select course electives that respond to their specific work requirements.

“Many students have found employment in the area because our teachers make sure they develop specific skills that local employers need.”

Karen Hagan, General Manager Campaspe College of Adult Education
