

Media Release

Tuesday 2 September 2008

Unique Collaboration Aims to Address ACT Skills Shortage

Two leading ACT Registered Training Organisations have joined forces to help alleviate the skills shortage in the Community Services and Health Industries..

NuSkills Learning and Development is a new training organisation which brings together the combined resources and expertise of AXIS Development and Communities@Work's Train.2.Work. Both organisations have extensive experience in the training and development of Community Services and Health professionals.

NuSkills Learning and Development was officially launched today by Mary Porter AM MLA, at the Canberra Museum and Gallery.

NuSkills will focus specifically on the training needs of the Community Services and Health sectors in the ACT and surrounding regions.

Maureen Cane, CEO of Communities@Work, which manages NuSkills, said that the region has experienced severe skills shortages in the child care, aged care, and community service sectors in recent years.

"We've been critically short of trained professionals in Community Services and Health sectors. Communities@Work alone employs around 180 people in the sector."

"NuSkills is a major training provider in Canberra a training organisation that has a specific focus on the needs of the Community Services and Health Industries.. It means that NuSkills courses will be more relevant and more responsive to the sector's changing knowledge and skill requirements."

"As well as offering courses in wide-ranging categories, NuSkills can work with industry and business to determine the nature of their training needs and then design tailored training to match the culture and challenges of the business. This approach will lead to a better trained sector in the long run."

“NuSkills will also be working with the sector to provide traineeships for new and existing staff. These traineeships, funded by the ACT Department of Education and Training through programs such as its User Choice program, are critical to ensuring a high level of training, leading to the provision of a high level of care to the community,” Ms Cane said.

Since the two organisations merged on 1 July 2008, more than 300 students have commenced training in a wide range of qualifications.

NuSkills courses are designed to provide maximum flexibility for students to ensure that quality outcomes are achieved and individual needs are met.

Courses can be delivered by distance learning, e-learning or face-to-face learning forums.

As the leading provider of community services in the ACT region, Communities@Work manages the new organisation and contributes its experience and expertise to the NuSkills course development.

NuSkills provides nationally recognised training, offering qualifications from Certificate II through to Advanced Diploma in: Community, Health and Children’s Services; Aged Care; and Businesses and Community Services Management.

For more information log on to www.nuskillslearning.org or call NuSkills on 02 6280 7900.

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