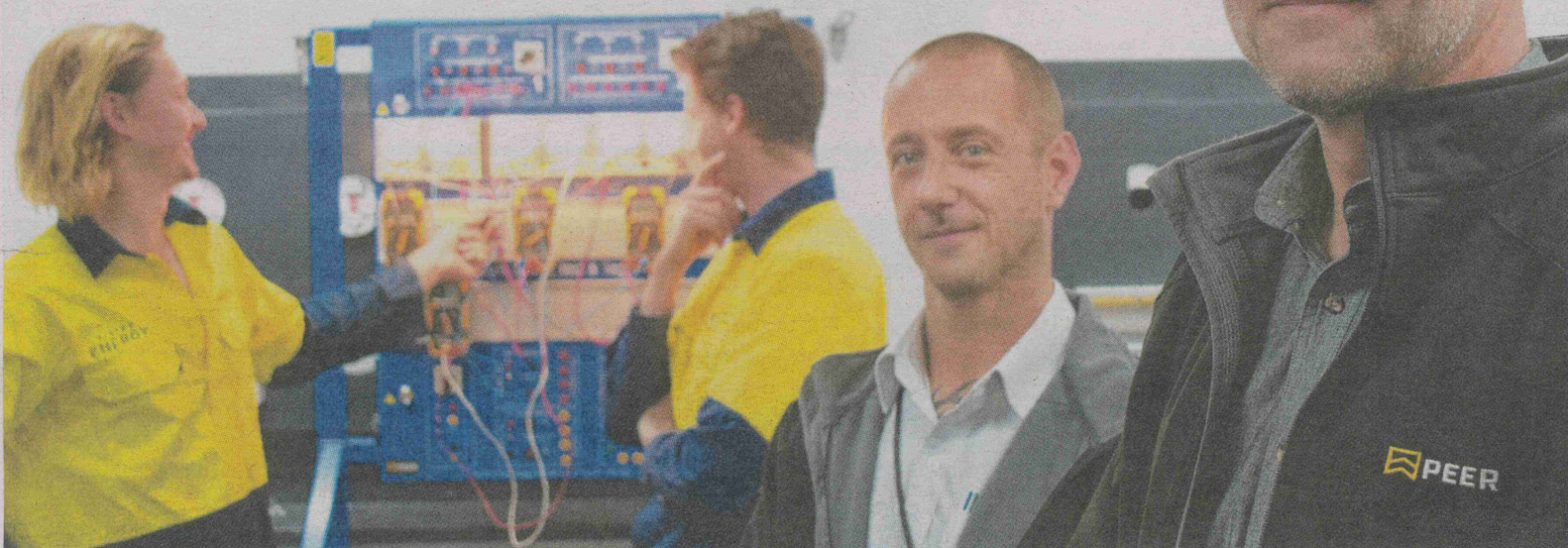


Learning

The Advertiser

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DISCOVER HOW TO SHARE EXPERTISE



LESSONS: Apprentices Benjamin Keogh and Anthony Stevens with PEER trainers Paul Hide and Andrew Snow.

Trade skills are in high demand off-site, Lauren Ahwan discovers

TRADIES are urged to down tools and return to the classroom to train a new generation of apprentices. Qualified trade trainers are in such short supply that current apprentices are being forced to delay their training, says National Apprentice Employment Network executive officer Di-
anne Dayhew.

She says the shortages will have a spin-off effect for the number of peo-

ple taking up apprenticeships, further exacerbating skills shortages.

"(The lack of trainers) is a critical issue," Dayhew says.

"It's impacting the number of apprentices that can be put on because you can't run a class if you don't have a trainer.

"From an employer's perspective, it's a real concern - you're not going to employ an apprentice if they can't start their training (apprenticeship) because there's no trainer available."

Dayhew says the situation has become so dire that poaching qualified, or near-qualified, trainers from other training organisations is now commonplace. To work as a trainer, tradies must hold a Certificate IV in Training and Assessment.

The qualification typically takes about six months to complete, with many training organisations now happy to meet the course costs to secure quality staff, Dayhew says.

She says transitioning from tradie to trainer can be extremely rewarding. "Training apprentices is definitely another pathway that's on offer," she says. "There's great respect for good trainers.

PEER chief executive Peter Nolan believes many tradies miss the opportunity to become trainers because they are unsure about what is involved.

"People want to make a change for a whole bunch of reasons but usually there is a genuine interest in training the next generation of plumbers, elec-

tricians, data and refrigeration tradespeople," Nolan says.

Refrigeration and airconditioning mechanic Andrew Snow, 48, spent 10 years pondering whether to become a trainer before finally taking the leap earlier this year.

"After being in refrigeration for 30 years, nothing was new anymore - it was the same clients, same equipment, same jobs," he says. "This is a new challenge for me."

Newly minted electrical trainer Paul Hide, 40, also is enjoying his change.

"I didn't always find it easy at secondary school so to be in the classroom, seeing students learn what I'm teaching them, is something I'm really enjoying," he says.

COURSE OF THE WEEK

TRAINING & ASSESSMENT

QUALIFICATION

A Certificate IV in Training and Assessment is the minimum qualification required for a worker to teach others in their vocational field of expertise. It can be studied through a public or private training provider, which may offer online and/or on-campus study.

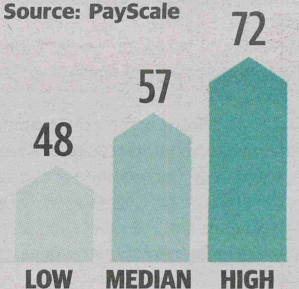
STUDY UNITS

Students will learn how to plan, organise and facilitate learning in a classroom and workplace for a group; design and develop learning programs; address language, literacy and numeracy skills in others; and assess competence.

PREREQUISITES

Students must hold a minimum certificate III qualification in any field to enrol and may also need to prove their competency.

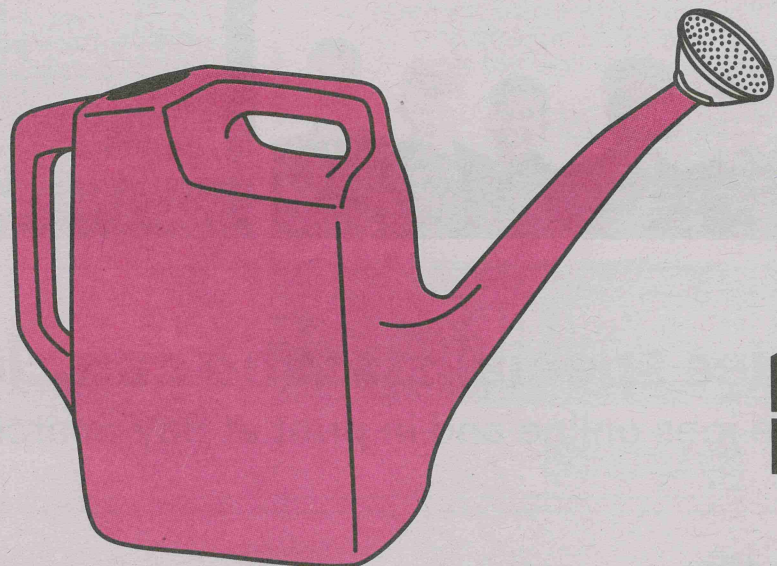
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