

## National skills week

## SPECIAL FEATURE

# PEER BEYOND EXPECTATIONS

**T**HE state's expanding defence industry and government commitments to train an extra 20,800 apprentices and trainees in the next four years means there is no better time to start a trade career.

It is a path Harry Sabey recommends, as he has not looked back since he completed his electrical apprenticeship with PEER in 2013.

At only 26, Sabey is now a senior member of a team of electricians employed by Layland Brothers Electrical, stationed at Tindal RAAF Base near Katherine in the Northern Territory.

"I always liked the idea of working for myself and being outdoors if possible – I knew I didn't want to be office-based," he says.

"I consistently achieved above-average grades at school, and university was on my radar.

"But in Year 10 I made the decision that I wanted to be an electrician, so I took up the opportunity to do an electrotechnology VET course run by PEER at my school.

**I ALWAYS LIKED THE IDEA OF WORKING FOR MYSELF AND BEING OUTDOORS IF POSSIBLE**

"I was aware that there was going to be a need for tradies as many of the older generation began to retire.

"I am grateful that my mum and dad were supportive."

PEER chief executive Peter Nolan says Sabey's is a story seen many times at the non-profit, industry-based group training organisation.

"Harry is a fantastic example of how young people with the right foresight and support from his parents can make a great career for themselves, not to mention a great salary too," he says.

"The defence sector is a real hot spot for many types of trades.

"Harry has done well to get such great experience in the sector so early in his trade career. It will serve him well in the future, particularly in SA where the sector is growing."

Nolan says PEER is always looking forward to ensure its apprentices are skilled for the jobs of today and tomorrow.

"As industries change, so does the way we train and manage our apprentices," he says.

"In fact, we are in the process of expanding the range of apprenticeships on offer at PEER to include those interested in engineering fabrication to supply the growing defence sector with the skills needed in future years to come."



**POWER OF GOOD:** PEER graduate Harry Sabey opted against attending university, instead training to be an electrician.

## STUDENTS MEAN BUSINESS WHEN IT COMES TO STUDY AND WORK

SAVVY school students are taking advantage of opportunities to obtain a nationally accredited vocational certificate for their chosen career at the same time as completing their SACE.

Thebarton Senior College finds developing vocational skills while achieving the South Australian Certificate of Education is an option many students seek.

The registered training organisation (RTO number 40117) offers courses in a range of areas, ensuring there is a vocational study option to meet most interests.

They include certificates in business and business administration, micro business operations, community services, early childhood education and care, dance, English proficiency, food processing, information technology, screen and

media, and sports coaching. It also has partnerships with other registered training organisations to enable students to pursue qualifications in construction, carpentry and engineering.

The vocational education and training (VET) qualifications can be used as credit towards SACE, meaning students can achieve educational and career goals at the same time.

Early childhood education and care student Jess says that is not the only benefit the college offers students.

"The reason why I chose to do my course at Thebarton Senior College is because it is such a positive environment to learn in," she says.

"This course allows me to learn the skills and knowledge I need and gives me the opportunity to work

with children within a professional environment during work placement."

Construction student Osman says the college offers a forward-thinking approach.

"Thebarton is a college of high quality that will help you achieve your goals in so many ways," he says. "Doing a VET course develops the skills you will need in your future."

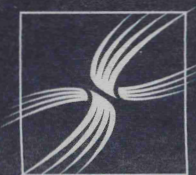
Thebarton Senior College students have the added benefit of being able to access more than 100 SACE subjects that are offered with flexible study options.

These include full-time and part-time study modes, as well as day classes and Year 12 twilight classes. **THE COLLEGE IS NOW TAKING INQUIRIES FOR ENROLMENT IN 2020.**

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**WORK MODE:** Thebarton Senior College students can study business courses as part of their SACE and receive a vocational qualification.



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