

26 November 2010

**PRESTIGIOUS HONOUR FOR LONG-TIME COMMITMENT TO
VOCATIONAL EDUCATION AND TRAINING**

Recently retired Skills Institute teacher and trainer Jo Crothers was today presented with the prestigious Trevor Leo Medal for her services to Vocational Education and Training.

Skills Tasmania introduced the Trevor Leo Medal in 2009 to recognise organisations or individuals who have made outstanding contributions to the VET sector over a sustained period. Trevor Leo made an enormous contribution to the state's education and training sector during the past 50 years.

Skills Institute CEO Malcolm White said Jo was highly deserving of this prestigious award.

"Over her career Jo has enriched the lives of many working Tasmanians, helped enterprises succeed through workforce skills development and demonstrated leading practice in workplace learning," Mr White said.

"In doing this, Jo has shown the way in contextualising learning-to-work and in finding effective ways to overcome literacy and numeracy barriers for employees in their workplace.

"Jo is held in high esteem by her colleagues, by the many individual students who have overcome barriers at work to realise their potential, and by a large number of employers, including the majority of large corporations in Tasmania.

"Jo has contributed greatly to Vocational Education and Training in Tasmania and is a worthy recipient of the Trevor Leo Medal."

Jo has worked in VET for the past 30 years. Most recently, she was Unit Leader for Workplace Learning Services, where she was integral in developing an operating framework that supported enterprise-based activity.

The four major elements of this framework are:

- analysis of jobs and alignment of Training Packages to these job requirements;
- integration of essential, job-related language, literacy and numeracy (LLN) tasks into assessment and training processes;
- active recognition of current competencies prior to assessment; and
- holistic assessment practices.

Her commitment to and focus on working with enterprises to find the best training processes and outcomes was highly valued within the Skills Institute.

“Enterprise-based teachers are selected for their best fit with an enterprise,” Jo says.

“Before any assessment or training is undertaken, Workplace Learning Services enterprise-based teachers spend time listening, observing and absorbing the context of the enterprise to gain an in-depth understanding of the culture, constraints and commercial goals of the business.

“This preliminary activity includes shadowing individual workers as they undertake routine workplace activities.”

ENDS

For more information contact: *Paula Catchpole, 0407 532 103*