

Media Release 9 June 2017

EBITS shortlisted for Queensland Training Awards!

EQIP BUSINESS, INDUSTRY & TOURISM SKILLS CENTRE

Tamra Costello has been shortlisted as a top three VET Teacher or Trainer of the Year finalist in the Queensland Training Awards for the Central Queensland region! The QTA recognises individuals and organisations that strive for and have achieved success, best practice and innovation in vocational education and training (VET).

Tamra plays a key role in managing the EQIP Business, Industry and Tourism Skills Centre (EBITS) program, a unique partnership between EQIP Gladstone, Tannum Sands State High School and Boyne Smelters Limited (BSL). Tamra said, "It's amazing to be nominated and it's good to have your work recognised." The success of the program is due to the teaching staff, parents, students, EQIP, schools and the industry partnerships who work collaboratively to support students in authentic workplace learning. "It takes a team effort to make EBITS work as successfully as it does."

In 2016, the EBITS program had 63 year 10, 11 and 12 students participate in business or tourism related studies and authentic workplace learning. The innovative aspect of this program is that students are immersed into the working world 1 day per week during school term all year. They undertake structured workplace training in a professional business suite at BSL and are actively involved in the community through a range of volunteering initiatives.

"If you were at a community event last year, it's highly likely that you networked with an EBITS student," Ms Costello said. EBITS students are GADPL Tourism Ambassadors at the Feast on East Markets greeting cruise ship passengers as they disembark to visit the Gladstone region. They are on the Youth Committee for the Boyne Tannum Hookup, volunteer at Ecofest and the Botanic to Bridge, and attend the Gladstone Chamber of Commerce & Industry monthly network meetings to learn more about small to medium business in our town. These are just a few of the exciting initiatives that the students are involved with.

EQIP regularly receives glowing feedback on the program from its partners. EQIP General Manager, Melissa Dennis said, "The program is exemplary and Tamra and all the students are role models for the program, their base school and our community."

The EBITS program has an Advisory Committee made up of representatives from local industry, government and schools. The committee's role is to help shape the design and delivery of the program. Tina Zawila from Sothertons Gladstone has the privilege of representing local business and has been the EBITS Advisory Committee Chair over the past few years. Tina said, "Tamra's dedication to the students and program is amazing and she is very deserving of this recognition." The success of the program is due to her contribution as she gives so much of herself and her time.

The CQ region's QTA Award ceremony is on the 15th July at the Gladstone Entertainment and Convention Centre. CQ region winners will transition to the top three State finalists and winners will be announced at the QTA State Gala Dinner being held in Brisbane in September.

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