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EQIP recognised at the State level for local collaboration between education and industry!

EQIP Gladstone Incorporated has received formal recognition as a Premiers Industry Collaboration Award State Finalist at the Queensland Training Awards held on 9 September 2016 in Brisbane. Now in its 55th year in 2016, the Queensland Training Awards are the State's highest recognition of people and organisations who strive for success, best practice and innovation in training.

The Premiers Industry Collaboration Award recognises the unique collaboration between Education Queensland, EQIP and local Industry to identify career pathway opportunities for secondary students that are aligned to local employment needs. The partners to the collaboration include EQIP, Tannum Sands State High School, Toolooa State High School, Gladstone State High School, Boyne Smelters Limited, NRG Gladstone Power Station, McCosker Contracting Pty. Ltd., Gladstone Regional Council, Australia Pacific LNG, QGC, Santos GLNG, Veolia Environmental Services, Queensland Alumina Limited and Gladstone Ports Corporation.

"Our collaboration gives students a unique, authentic and engaging workplace training experience that is highly valued by students, industry supporters and future employers." Melissa Dennis – General Manager, EQIP

The collaboration goes above and beyond standard practice in training and skills development as the training is delivered by Education Queensland Teachers onsite at local business and industry, where secondary students gain qualifications and develop skills and experience in authentic work environments. Our industry partners provide supervisory resources and structured work experience to help students apply the theory in a practical work environment. This unique learning approach helps cement the technical skill development and raise awareness of the importance of teamwork, communication, problem solving and safety awareness.

"EQIP provides a valuable service to the Gladstone community by creating the link between education and industry to provide unique training experiences for students. It is great to see this local industry and education partnership being recognised at the State level." Patrick Hastings – CEO, Gladstone Industry Leadership Group

EQIP's Programs are designed to provide pathways into a wide range of fields including civil construction, engineering manufacturing, resources and infrastructure operations, process plant operations, automotive mechanical, building construction, hospitality, tourism, and business support services. Programs are available to Year 10, 11 and 12 students from Toolooa, Tannum Sands, and Gladstone State High Schools, which collectively represent about 80% of secondary school students in the Gladstone region.

EQIP Programs include:

- EQIP Engineering Skills Centre (EESC) onsite training at NRG Gladstone Power Station
- EQIP Business and IT Skills Centre (EBITS) onsite training at Boyne Smelters Limited
- EQIP Process Plant Operations (EPMA) training provider is CQUniversity and onsite work experience with Queensland Alumina Limited and Gladstone Ports Corporation
- EQIP Technical College Gladstone Region (ETCGR) onsite training with many local businesses including McDonalds, McCosker Contracting, Park St News, AK Autoelectrics, JJ Richards, Muffin Break, Innovations Hair, MICRAH, Keppel Bay Sailing Club, and Natraspray
- EQIP Doorways to Civil Construction (ED2CC) onsite training at McCosker Contracting
- PREQIP Year 10 Indigenous Program providing training across EQIP programs

EQIP's role in fostering collaboration between all parties is highly valued as it provides the local community with students who are work-ready, who have entry to mid-level technical skills and valuable soft skills that ensure students can more readily integrate into the workplace. While the current downturn has impacted upon available employment opportunities in the Gladstone region, EQIP students continue to be highly sought after by employers. This is reflected in our Destination Data Survey results which currently shows that around 60% of our 2015 EQIP Program graduates secured an apprenticeship or traineeship and 27% full-time or part-time employment. As a comparison, of all 2014 EQIP Program graduates 70% transitioned to an apprenticeship or traineeship compared to 12.7% in the Fitzroy region and 8.3% State-wide¹. The final Destination Data Survey results for EQIP and Next Step Survey results for the Department of Education and Training will be released in the next month.

"It's through real onsite practical work experience opportunities that EQIP students develop the skills and experience that employers are looking for. This makes them a cut above the rest. It is important that this unique collaboration between education and industry continues so that our students benefit and can contribute to the long-term economic growth of our Region." Bob McCosker – Managing Director, McCosker Contracting Pty. Ltd.

EQIP is a not-for-profit world class initiative that demonstrates how the education and business communities can come together to benefit student outcomes. In addition to authentic workplace learning, EQIP partners with many organisations across all industry sectors in Gladstone to secure work experience opportunities for non-EQIP students. EQIP will place approximately 1,000 Year 10, 11 and 12 students from all schools in the Region in work experience this year. EQIP also organises the yearly Gladstone Careers Expo which brings together Year 10, 11 and 12 students from all schools in the Region to learn more about education and career pathway opportunities. In 2016 the Gladstone Careers Expo boasted 35 exhibitors across many education and industry sectors and this number is expected to grow in 2017.

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State
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¹ Source: Queensland Government Department of Education and Training 2015 Next Step Survey results
<http://education.qld.gov.au/nextstep/nextstep/2015survey.html>



