

# Wesley Mission believes in

caring for the whole person, and part of that care involves assisting people to find meaningful employment. When people have jobs, it has positive benefits for so many other areas of their lives. We work closely with disadvantaged job seekers throughout NSW to offer them new skills and new hope for shaping their employment future.

## Tailoring our training

Wesley Vocational Institute, the registered vocational training arm of Wesley Mission, seeks to address the training needs of people living in areas of high unemployment and disadvantage. Wesley Vocational Institute supports clients to learn and upgrade their skills and access appropriate training and study opportunities. Training and assessment services are offered across NSW.

During the year, Wesley Vocational Institute was awarded major funding contracts from the Federal Government's Department of Health and Ageing to deliver training to the aged care industry across NSW.

Wesley Vocational Institute also supports Wesley Uniting Employment by delivering training to staff and job seekers in NSW and South Australia, and has interstate partnership projects operating within the Wesley Mission/UnitingCare network.

Wesley Vocational Institute significantly expanded its Indigenous Training Unit with the appointment of an Indigenous Training Manager and by securing additional State and Federally funded Indigenous training programs.

The first graduates of Wesley Vocational Institute's Indigenous Employment Program at Port Macquarie began to find work during the year—a great achievement. Their training in aged care aimed to make the most of opportunities in the booming aged care industry on the NSW Mid North Coast. Some 30 participants trained for either the Certificate III in Aged Care or Certificate III in Home and Community Care.

Under an internal restructure, Wesley Mission's Mental Health Training Unit became part of Wesley Vocational Institute. This is an exciting development and has allowed Wesley Vocational Institute to increase its workplace training offerings in the areas of mental health, suicide prevention, eating disorders, psychopharmacology, and alcohol and other drugs training programs. This is helping to shape the local community now and for the future.

Wesley Vocational Institute had 1,233 students enrolled in accredited training courses graduate during the year and

increased the number of students completing programs to 83 per cent. A further 1,500 students attended non-accredited training and workshops.

## Shaping a working future

Wesley Uniting Employment provides a range of employment solutions under the Federal Government's Job Services Australia and Disability Employment Services program from 16 locations across NSW.

Services include creating and updating resumes; matching skills and abilities to jobs; training in job-seeking skills; referrals to training providers; writing job applications; access to wage subsidies to help eligible job seekers start work, and non-vocational assistance such as finding accommodation and dealing with substance abuse.

During the year Wesley Uniting Employment also delivered the Best Options Youth Mentoring program in Port Macquarie and Batemans Bay. This involves training mentors to provide one-on-one support for disadvantaged young people who are at school or looking for work.

Wesley Uniting Employment continued to be ranked by the Federal Government as the number one provider in all areas where it delivers the Job Services Australia contract.

In the year under review, Wesley Uniting Employment won a new Work Placement contract on the South Coast and began delivering these services for the first time.

Wesley Mission's Counselling Support Services and Wesley Uniting Employment also completed a pilot project that involved the former providing counselling support to job seekers who had problems that prevented them from finding work. The pilot delivered positive results for job seekers and the intention is to establish counselling support in all Wesley Uniting Employment sites.

In 2010/11 Wesley Uniting Employment assisted 5,856 job seekers. More than a thousand clients were employed for 13 weeks or more, and over 800 found work for six months or more.

## Employment and training services

<b>Wesley Vocational Institute</b>	<b>2009–2010</b>	<b>2010–2011</b>
Students enrolled	970	1,233
Students commencing traineeships	151	112

<b>Wesley Uniting Employment</b>		
Job seekers serviced	8,086	5,856
Work or education placements recorded	4,542	3,109
Job seekers employed for 13 weeks or more	1,130	1,085
Job seekers employed for 26 weeks or more	670	831

### Case study: Aged care employment offers new opportunities

The first graduates in the Indigenous Employment Program at Wesley Vocational Institute Port Macquarie are already getting results. Their training in aged care is making the most of opportunities in the booming aged care industry on the Mid North Coast of NSW.

Garry Adams, Wesley Vocational Institute's Regional Operations Coordinator, said that Wesley Vocational Institute had a good record for matching job seekers with local job opportunities.

"With a lot of people retiring to the Mid North Coast, there are a lot of opportunities in aged care. We want to help people prepare for those opportunities," he said.

Kate\*, who was one of the first students to graduate, found employment even before the course finished. "This was a fun course that covered everything we needed to know," she said.

Another student, Ben\*, has found some strong employment leads. He said he was a bit daunted before starting because he had never passed a course before.

Ben said the group learning in the course made it much easier. "Our trainer, Michelle, gave us a lot of support. She provided us with references and will call employers on our behalf," he said.

\* Not their real names.

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