

## Employment and Training Services

**Wesley Mission's Employment and Training Services assist unemployed working age people across NSW. In 2008–2009 it operated from 59 different locations covering metropolitan Sydney, major regional centres and small rural communities. Wesley Vocational Institute is the registered vocational training arm of Wesley Mission. This year, Wesley Vocational Institute has successfully identified the training needs of our clients, supporting them to learn, develop and access pathways to nationally-recognised qualifications.**

### Genuine commitment

Wesley Mission's Employment and Training Services in 2008–2009 implemented innovative and essential programs to help people move forward in their lives.

Job Network has provided a broad range of federally-funded services for eligible jobseekers to place them into employment. Their scope ranged from registering resumes on a national database, matching skills and abilities to jobs and training in job-seeking skills and referral to training providers. In addition to this, assistance with job applications and providing motivational support to enable access to wage subsidies to help eligible jobseekers start work.

Our Disability Employment Network at Ballina and Lismore assisted jobseekers with disabilities, placing them into employment or training. The Community Work Co-ordinator program organised community work for unemployed jobseekers in 19 NSW areas, 14 of which achieved a "3 star" rating or higher. Almost 1900 participants gained work experience with schools, councils, and other community groups or, as part of work crews, undertook one of the 192 building, group maintenance and computer refurbishment projects that ran during the year.

Wesley Mission has welcomed involvement in partnerships with government departments and private enterprise to deliver training services. The Apprenticeships and Traineeship Training Program (ATTP) is administered by the NSW Department of Education and Training, providing structured training opportunities for new trainees and existing workers. The Better Skills Better Care Program, funded by the Department of Health and Ageing, assists aged care providers to meet their training requirements. Similarly, the Community Aged Care Workforce Development Program enhances the skills of workers who provide home-based care to frail older people with complex care needs.

### Committed to succeed

Wesley Mission has enjoyed many successes during the past year, small and large, but all significant. For example, we were judged to be the best provider of the Personal Support Program (PSP) in nine of the 12 areas in which it was delivered in 2008–2009.

Wesley Vocational Institute has successfully partnered with employment service providers to deliver training under this program to jobseekers who are facing multiple barriers to becoming employed. To date, 433 job-seekers have successfully participated in a training course to develop the vocational skills required to gain meaningful employment. Wesley Institute is a Higher Education provider and is also approved to provide courses to international students. Last year it offered 22 Higher Education courses with 417 full-time students. There were 123 graduates last year, the highest number of graduates to date.

### The need for courage

Challenges during 2008–2009 include the closure of some services as they merged into a new federal government program, *Job Services Australia*. As a result, the operations of our Community Work Coordinator program and our Personal Support Program ceased on 30 June 2009. During the year, our Job Network services suffered a substantial loss of business in a Federal Government tender, resulting in the closure of many offices. Port Macquarie, Wauchope, Taree, Tuncurry, Batemans Bay and Moruya were retained in the tender and a new office was added at Narooma. Our partnership with Housing NSW and the Department of Corrective Services to provide accommodation and case management for women released from Dillwynnia prison also ended on 30 June 2009. Twelve homeless ex-offenders were housed in 2008–2009.

### Ongoing commitment

There are areas of growth and increased demand as we look ahead. A steady increase in caseload in the Disability Employment Network program resulted in the appointment of additional staff. We opened new offices in nearby locations to help meet the demand for the program.

Wesley Vocational Institute maintains a scope of 55 qualifications and three accredited courses. While our scope of qualifications is extensive, there is particular focus on courses within the Community Services and Health Sector, Business and Service, and Training and Assessment Sector. Wesley Vocational Institute will continue to seek out funding opportunities to service those clients and organisations in the community. The number of students who participated in vocational courses during 2008–2009 was 3000 and 266 traineeships commenced during the same period.

### Courage to make a change

In an exciting collaboration, Wesley Vocational Institute has partnered with Wesley Counselling Services to address the issue of problem gambling. Together they submitted a successful Expression of Interest to the NSW Government, seeking to participate in a pilot program to validate and evaluate the resource material against the newly accredited Diploma of Problem Gambling Counselling.

This evaluation and validation process will enable resources to be refined for future delivery of the Diploma of Problem Gambling Counselling and specialist problem gambling counselling competencies.

### Job network

Disability employment program

Personal support program

Job placement

Youth pathways

Ex offender support

Wesley Vocational Institute

Business training and community partnerships

Employment Services

Regional planning and pastoral care



# Employment and Training Services

## Wesley Institute

Higher education course offered	22
FTE students enrolled	417
Average course completion rate	80%
Staff to student ratio	1:7.8
Graduates this year	123

## Wesley Vocational Institute

Vocational courses commenced	98
Students enrolled	3000
Students commencing traineeships	266

## Employment Services

