

## MEDIA RELEASE

23 September 2009

# Transport Skills-a long way to go in the race for youth skills

A research project recently completed by **The Transport and Logistics Industry Skills Council** has shown that significant energy needs to be applied to convince schools that transport and logistics jobs offer viable career paths for students seeking to **gain vocational skills whilst in their final years of school.**

The findings of the research project, **Do School Based (Vocational Education and Training) VET Pathways Work in Transport and Logistics**, revealed a reluctance by schools to engage in transport related studies and a preference to offering more traditional school based vocational subjects.

While schools continue to engage in traditional trade and business type courses little attention is given to engaging in the less traditional VET area of transport and logistics. Our investigations revealed that while there are some excellent and often innovative projects that have been provided in schools **there are few examples where long term transport related programs have made a real impact to the national figures on transport studies in schools.**

While over 90% of all schools provide some offering of VET studies less than 1 percent had a relationship to the transport industry. **Even with 36% of all senior secondary school students undertaking some form of VET program at school the combined outcome in terms of skills availability for the transport industry is miniscule.**

The report highlighted some of the main barriers to a serious uptake of VET transport studies in schools including a **need to improve people's perception of the industry**, increased awareness of the available career paths by careers advisors and more knowledge on transport VET qualifications that can be applied by schools in conjunction with industry.

**The report recommends close school-industry relationships as the cornerstone of successful VET programs** including the application of school based traineeships as a vehicle to assist students in gaining national vocational qualifications that have workplace content.

The skills council will shortly release a new VET in schools resource designed to assist schools in adopting transport traineeships as part of their suite of VET studies.

For more information on the report go to <http://www.tlisc.com.au/index.php?menuID=263>

or contact the Transport and Logistics Research and Policy Director Amanda Thomas at  
Amanda@tlisc.com.au

### **The Transport and Logistics Industry Skills Council**

The Transport and Logistics Industry Skills Council (the Skills Council) is one of 11 national organisations that have a key role in advising government on national industry skill requirements, and providing advice to industry around national workforce planning initiatives, training package development and the national vocational education training system.

CEO Geoff Gwilym  
geoff@tlisc.com.au  
03 9604 7208  
[www.tlisc.com.au](http://www.tlisc.com.au)

### **Engage with the Skills Council**

The Transport and Logistics Industry Skills Council encourages engagement and communication from industry, key stakeholders and the broader community. To become part of the Skills Council information network log on to [www.tlisc.com.au](http://www.tlisc.com.au) and sign up for our regular email bulletins.