

For Immediate Release

Thursday, 28 April 2016

DEMAND FOR SUBSIDISED RETAIL TRAINING LEADS TO NEW STUDENT INTAKE

Grand Central and TAFE Queensland South West today announced that due to demand, a second retail training intake would commence from 5 May.

The two organisations last month announced a local partnership to deliver practical, industry-relevant retail and hospitality training in the Toowoomba region.

Grand Central Centre Manager Shaine Beveridge said the first enrolled students studying retail and hospitality courses made available through the partnership have now finished their first fortnight of classes at TAFE Queensland in Toowoomba.

Mr Beveridge said he was happy that people were taking advantage of the subsidised training.

“We’re excited to be investing in people from the Toowoomba community to help enhance local employment opportunities – whether at Grand Central or at other retail or hospitality businesses in the region.”

TAFE Queensland South West Retail Teacher Jo Troisi said she was impressed with the first intake of retail and hospitality students.

“The students who have signed up are eager to learn and they will be rewarded when they build great service skills and knowledge which will differentiate them as candidates when applying for jobs,” Ms Troisi said.

“With the number of retail and hospitality jobs in the region growing there’s never been a better time to train to get your foot in the door, and we can now confirm that we are offering a second intake in our retail courses commencing from 5 May.”

“Anyone who is interested can visit us on campus or call our customer service team to find out how they too can be part of this great program.”

Retail student Kate Taylor and hospitality student Jake McDonald are among the initial cohort who have taken advantage of the partnership.

“As I already have some retail experience, this funding provided a great opportunity to build on my current knowledge and skills, improve my resume and gain a qualification that reflects the skills I have,” Ms Taylor said.

“I was so excited to start that I had my bag packed a week before classes even started – it was just like the first day back at school.

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“The first two weeks have been great. I’m looking forward to learning new things, meeting new people and making new friends as we continue.”

Jake McDonald added that while starting a new course can be nerve racking, completing it is worth it to gain an edge when applying for work.

“I enrolled because I need a job and I’ve always wanted to work in the hospitality industry. Having a qualification under my belt will definitely help,” he said.

“While I may not ultimately end up with a career in hospitality, I will gain transferable skills that I can use in whatever industry I end up in.

“On our first day I was a little nervous but I will be ok. Learning is always good and I’m excited about the rest of the course.”

The initiative coincides with the \$500 million dollar transformation of Grand Central and the influx of approximately 1,000 retail and hospitality jobs the development will bring once completed.

Eligible local residents are able to kick-start their career in retail and hospitality with the funding from Grand Central, which will support training for up to 550 places in retail and hospitality courses.

To enrol in upcoming retail and hospitality courses please contact TAFE Queensland South West on 1300 914 754 or visit www.tafesouthwest.edu.au

PHOTO CAPTION 1: Hospitality student Jake McDonald and retail student Kate Taylor on their first day.

PHOTO CAPTION 2: Jake McDonald and Kate Taylor complete the orientation checklist with TAFE Queensland South West retail teacher Jo Troisi.

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