

CIT Board Communique – November 2023

As we continue to celebrate the milestone 95th anniversary of CIT we are reminded of the central place it holds in our community. CIT has been shaping futures since 1928, most notably through our impact on the ACT economy, supplying the ACT workforce with essential skills. The Board met on 1 November to start discussions on the strategic vision of CIT and looks forward to shaping our future focus with CIT staff and our stakeholders,

Skills shortages across the country continue to drive the demand for a high-quality VET sector and increase pressure on VET providers to meet government and community expectations. CIT remains at the forefront of responding to training needs in innovative ways to meet skills demand in both emerging and traditional markets to drive growth and diversification of the ACT economy.

[CIT welcomes the announcement of the National Skills Agreement \(NSA\), which positions and invests in TAFE at the heart of the skills solution](#). CIT was proud to host this nationally significant announcement at our Hybrid and Electric Vehicle Laboratory in Fyshwick. Here, alongside CIT teachers, staff and students, Prime Minister Anthony Albanese launched the NSA outlining the Commonwealth and state and territory governments co-investment strategy of \$12.6 billion set to expand and transform access to vocational education and training. It was an opportunity for CIT to showcase the delivery of innovative, relevant and quality training that can advance the ACT workforce now and into the future.

A key component of the NSA is the extended delivery of Fee-Free TAFE. CIT Fee-Free TAFE students recently met with the Prime Minister at Parliament House to share their personal stories about the personal value of vocational education and training provided by the CIT, specifically their experience of study under the Fee Free TAFE initiative.

The Board is pleased to report that CIT has reached its target of delivering 2,530 Fee-Free TAFE enrolments in 2023. Fee-Free TAFE will continue as part of the NSA and CIT looks forward to soon announcing our places for 2024 onwards.

The CIT Board notes the activities and accolades listed below, which are formal endorsements of the dedication and passion of our students, teachers, and staff. The Board recognises and congratulates all our students and staff for their effort in representing CIT, and the broader ACT, with such distinction.

CIT students claim four medals at WorldSkills:

CIT students claimed four medals at the WorldSkills national championships in Melbourne, including gold to apprentice Floyd Lucas-Baxter (Refrigeration and Air Conditioning), silver to Cooper Camden (Wall and Floor Tiling) and bronze for Charlie Elms (Cabinetmaking) and Lachlan Usher (Plastering).

Thirteen students from the ACT, including 12 from CIT, qualified for the championships that test almost 500 of the best young trade students in Australia. Congratulations to all CIT students, teachers, mentors and the entire support team.

These students will bring their transformative experience back to their student peers, becoming champions for what's possible for the broader student population.

CIT recognised with five wins at the ACT Training Awards:

The Board commends [CIT staff and students who were winners at the 2023 ACT Training Awards](#) which celebrate the outstanding achievements of the territory's vocational education and training

(VET) sector. CIT won **ACT Large Training Provider of the Year**, while CIT teachers, students and industry partners also took out individual and collaborative awards:

- **ACT VET Teacher of the Year, Peter Redfern-Elliot (Hospitality, Culinary, Tourism)**
- **ACT Australian School-based Apprentice of the Year, Poppy Chalmers (Community Services)**
- **ACT Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander VET Student of the Year, Emma Brown, Indigenous Apprenticeship Program (IAP) with CIT Solutions**
- **ACT Industry Collaboration Award, Women in Construction Program (Lendlease Construction ACT, Australian Training Company, Ginninderry SPARK, Creative Safety Initiative and CIT collaboration)**

The Board thanks CIT staff for their continued efforts noting that CIT staff remain our greatest asset and are critical to the ongoing success of CIT in building the skills necessary for the ACT community.

The Board notes the uncertainty for staff as the CEO remains on leave to ensure procedural fairness while the Integrity Commission Investigation is continuing. The Board thanks Ms Robertson for continuing on at CIT as Interim CEO while the CEO remains on leave.