

**WorldSkills Australia Submission to Parliament of Australia
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Education and Training
Inquiry into Vocational Education in Schools**

What is WorldSkills Australia?

Please refer to attached document “Challenging Excellence”.

As with many other countries, in Australia since 1998, a separate category for VET in School students has been introduced.

VET in Schools Competition

National Training Packages form the basis of vocational curricula taught in Australian secondary schools so the opportunity was recognized to develop a National VET in Schools competition. This was piloted in 1998 with six schools involvement and it has steadily grown since then with funding and support from industry groups, the Federal Government and State and Territory Education Departments.

Currently the VET in Schools competition comprises 12 categories: Business Administration, Commercial Cookery, Construction, Electro-technology, Food and Beverage Service, Horticulture, Information Technology, Metals and Engineering, Primary Industries (General Agriculture), Retail, Tourism and Viticulture.

In the National cycle the VET in Schools competition has three tiers: School/College, Regional and National with the best students progressing after each level. In order to be eligible students must be enrolled in a secondary school and be in their first year of study in a VET course at the time of competing in the first tier of competition.

The VET in Schools competition has introduced WorldSkills to a wide audience of students at the entry level of their training and provides a recognized pool of excellence on which to build future champions.

Funding

NSW funding is available for NSW students, with varying levels of funding available in other states/territories. ECEF has committed funding for the next three years to assist in setting up state based infrastructure for competitions across Australia.

Summary

The WorldSkills Australia VET in Schools competition is seen as a unique and ideal means of showcasing the many areas of vocational training currently being taught in schools throughout Australia.

**JEANNE RAPER
WORLD SKILLS AUSTRALIA
NSW VET IN SCHOOLS MANAGER**