

# Guide delivers the goods on training

## ForestWorks helps streamline apprenticeship process

LEARNING and skills developer ForestWorks has launched a five-step process guide to accessing apprenticeships and traineeships, which includes resources and helpful tips to streamline the process.

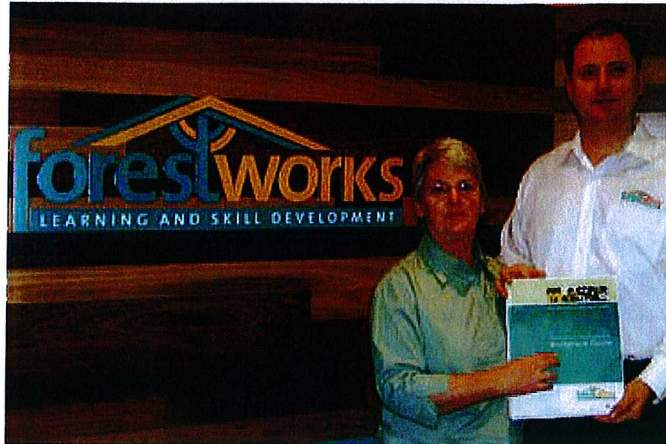
The Flexible Apprenticeship and Traineeship Workplace Guide released to industry in June, follows development over 18 months in consultation with industry. Funding will be through the Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations (DEEWR).

The guide promotes Australian apprenticeships and demonstrates flexible trainee and apprenticeship delivery approaches.

User friendly, the guide centres around five key steps to gaining a qualification. By following these steps, users will learn more about registered training organisations (RTOs) as they gain a qualification.

The guide is also a useful resource for those unfamiliar with the terminology of the vocational education training sector and provides relevant contact details.

It includes a case study involving Timber Training Creswick and Dahlsens Building Centres where flexible training has been



**Minn Stewart, material support officer, ForestWorks, and Damian Toohey, manager, Industry Skills Advisory Service (Forestry) Victoria, look over the Flexible Apprenticeship and Traineeship Workplace Guide at ForestWorks office in Melbourne.**

introduced to meet the hectic demands of a busy worksite.

Timber Training Creswick has developed a flexible training model to meet the needs of its client which has led to success in many areas of the business, including increased sales, reduction in lost time injuries and reduced staff turnover.

Brian DeClase, manager of the Dahlsens' Ballarat frame and truss plant, says he is proud of what the site has achieved and accredits it to training.

Since the flexible training plan was introduced, Mr DeClase has documented a marked

increase in profit as well as a drop in lost work time.

A reduction of lost time injuries has seen work cover costs reduced more than 90%, an increased awareness, identification and rectification of hazards and employees encouraged, where possible, to re-enter the workplace on revised duties.

Sales at the site have increased by 64% with minimal increase in staffing levels, increased resource output and reduced costs through improved lean manufacturing processes.

Mr DeClase said there had been

a noticeable reduction in staff absenteeism. "Staff feel valued by receiving and responding to feedback via a 12 monthly employment review process and opportunities to identify workplace training needs," he said.

A hard copy of the guide will be available to members and stakeholders soon. Inquires should be directed to Damian Toohey at [dtoohy@forestworks.com.au](mailto:dtoohy@forestworks.com.au)

A pdf version of the guide can be downloaded from [www.forestworks.com.au](http://www.forestworks.com.au)

## Global surge in wood pellet fuel

GLOBAL production of wood pellets, an alternative fuel for heating, will grow by multiples over the next decade, helped by the European Union's renewable energy regulations, an industry lobby group says.

Production will increase to 100 million tonnes from about 12 million tonnes now, Christian Rakos, head of the association of Austrian pellet producers, said in Brussels.

Much of the increase will come from Canada and the southern USA.

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Contact Alan Jones

Tel: (07) 3010 1823 Mob: 0419 754 681 Email: [alan.jones@premier.austbrokers.com](mailto:alan.jones@premier.austbrokers.com)  
 (Licence No. 238123)

