

METS Training Awards 2009

The METS Awards night is held annually, this year it will be held in October. It is the time when we get to shine the spotlight on those excellent students who deserve some accolades.

This year with the increase in qualifications and the increase in students, you will find some of the processes have changed slightly. Once nominated, we will advise you what you will need to do to ensure that you get an opportunity to have a look at the many categories we have selected and see what you feel you have to offer in response to them.

The awards night will be held in Parramatta and following the success of last years dinner, we will endeavour to provide another entertaining and enjoyable evening. The very deserving candidates and recipients will be recognised not only by their centres, but also by the larger early childhood sector who are invited to the event.

I wish you all good luck and look forward to

The METS 2009 Training Awards are proudly supported by:

The Book Garden, Spring Flora Florist, The Powerhouse Museum, Featherdale Wildlife Park, Parramatta Eels, LG IMAX Theatre Sydney, and The Good Guys.

Corporate Partners for Change (CPC) Program

METS held a 'funded course' in April called the CPC program (Corporate Partners for Change). This free course is delivered in partnership with Holroyd City Council and is funded by the NSW Department of Education and Training.

This full time 10 week course consisted of 7 units from the Certificate III Children's Services including a First Aid Certificate. The course was a blend of both theory and practical and we achieved some great results. There were 14 students from a huge range of cultures and backgrounds but they all had the same desire to enter into a career in Children's Services.

All students attended various centres including Holroyd Council Centres, Children First and many other local centres around the Blacktown area. In previous CPC courses, approximately 80% of students have gained employment after attending the course which is a fantastic outcome. We would like to thank all the centres and staff who helped the students of CPC and look forward to working with you again.

METS next CPC course will be in the Penrith area starting in September. If you know of anyone who would benefit from attending, please call METS office to find out the eligibility criteria.



NOMINATIONS NOW OPEN

If you are a student and would like to nominate yourself or your supervisor, please contact METS and we will send you out a nomination pack.

Nominations Close 4th September 2009



Major Award

OUTSTANDING STUDENT OF THE YEAR

Other Awards

- Cert III Children's Services Trainee Recognition
- Diploma of Children's Services Trainee Recognition
- Cert IV Out of School Hours Trainee Recognition
- Disability Work Trainee Recognition
- School Based Trainee Recognition
- Trainee Encouragement Award
- Fee For Service Student Recognition
- Supervisor of the Year
- Employer Recognition Awards

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From the Editor:

Some of you may have been aware that I have been away for some weeks overseas. I attended the **2009 World Forum for Early Care and Education** in Belfast Northern Ireland. The forum draws together early childhood practitioners from throughout the world. It is an exchange of ideas, solutions and an understanding of the picture of early childhood reflected throughout many nations.

The 2009 forum drew together over 625 early childhood professionals from many nations, people whose experience and circumstance is so diverse that it is an education in itself. The concept of the forum is to exchange information on what is happening in organisations and countries in general, both large and small. It emphasises sharing the best we have to offer and allows people, particularly from developing nations or countries of conflict, to engage in dialogue and possibly share resources both tangible and intellectual.

The participants of the forum ranged from affluent nations and organisations, to sponsored participants who shared their daily lives in early childhood that differ greatly from what we experience here in Australia. The Vice Chair on the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child spoke eloquently about her experiences on the Committee and outlined, in this 20th anniversary year, the achievements both big and small as the committee enforces Children's Rights with various nations throughout the world.

Delegates from Israel and Palestine spoke

of tre-



mendous pressure on Early Childhood educators' families and children, emergency and crisis situations. They outlined strategies for coping and discussed the impact on the children, which interestingly was the same no matter which side you were on.

Delegates from the many African nations discussed the AIDS and refugee crisis which affects them greatly on a daily basis. How they establish some sort of early childhood structure to ensure children, who are traumatized, can have some sort of stability, normality and opportunities for play in what is a most unstable, unacceptable situation for a child. How these children cope and how the early childhood educators provide on what is "half a shoe string budget" is remarkable.

The experience of meeting and exchanging information with these inspirational, modest people was fantastic and something that I hope many others will get the opportunity to do if the forum comes to Australia in the next few years.

☺ *Regards Noeleen*

Diploma State Funded Traineeship

As of July 1st 2009 State funding was made available for the Diploma of Children's Services traineeship for new employees of less than 3 months or for those finishing a Certificate III traineeship (rollover period of 3 months).

What this means is no fees to the employer who can now retain all incentive payments. The trainee must still hold a Certificate III in Children's Services before commencing the Diploma and will be required to pay an

Enrolment fee (exemptions and concessions may apply). Training can be delivered either as employment based (face to face visits within Sydney metro area only) or via correspondence.

To check the eligibility of an employee to undertake a state funded traineeship, and whether you are eligible to receive incentive payments refer to your Australian Apprenticeship Centre.

Staff Profile:

Rob Ringer

**Disability Work Coordinator/
Trainer**

Rob has been with METS for 9 months, starting as a trainer/ assessor for the Certificate III & IV in Disability Work, and is now Coordinating all trainees in Disability Work. Rob has studied in both the UK & Australia and holds his Cert IV in Training & Assessment and other various qualifications in Community Services.

Rob has had 28 years experience working with Children & Young People with emotional, social and behavioural difficulties in a range of settings from Assessment/Remand Centres

to Special Needs Education, his roles ranging from Residential Social Worker to Head of Care and Vice Principal.

Rob's other experience includes:

- training of workplace assessors and internal verifiers in Quality control of National Vocational Awards.
- managing an accredited City & Guilds Centre for the delivery of National Vocational Qualifications within the Care Sector to meet agreed Government targets for the 'direct care' workforce.
- disability business services Training Coordinator and Employee Development Coordinator which involved planning and development of individual training plans for supported workers and participation in workplace

training including Disability Service Standards, conflict resolution and work instruction techniques.

Welcome to METS Rob.



School Based Traineeships

Enrolments open for 2010

As some of you may know METS is currently conducting a School Based Traineeship Program with Students in year 12 in the Penrith Region undertaking the Certificate IV in Out of School Hours Care as part of the HSC. METS intend to again deliver this program next year with students entering Year 11 in 2010.

The Traineeship involves students from a range of High Schools coming together twice a week at a classroom in Penrith throughout year 11 and 12 where METS delivers the theory component of the course.

The students are signed up under a traineeship with an OOSH/B&A service and under-

take several shifts a week to make up a minimum average of 7.6 hrs per week, which they are paid for at trainee rates. As a registered traineeship there are incentives available through the Australian Apprenticeship Centres to employers who take on a school based trainee.

The course itself is approved by the Board of Studies in NSW to form part of the students HSC, meaning that it counts as a school subject, even though it is not delivered by the school.

Students are released from school to attend the classroom component of the traineeship at the same time as other students who may be undertaking other HSC subjects at TAFE.

If you are an employer who has an OOSH or B&A service in the Western Suburbs of Sydney, Lower Mountains or Hawkesbury area and would like to know more about School Based Traineeships in Out of School Hours Care please feel free to contact METS on (02) 9838 0567 and seek further information.

Due to the rules set around the minimum age of trainees undertaking the Certificate III in Children's Service as being 18, the Cert III is not approved as a School based Traineeship. Currently however the Certificate IV in Out of School Hours Care is available to those students in year 11 and 12.



FFS STUDENTS! Purchase 4 units & get the 5th unit FREE

Available for the Certificate III & Diploma of Children's Services, Certificate IV in OOSH and Certificate III & IV in Disability Work.

Offer expires 30/9/09. Must be purchased in one transaction. FFS Students must mention or present this coupon at time of purchase to receive free unit.

METS Honour Roll

METS would like to congratulate the following students who have recently completed their qualifications!

Trainees:

Certificate III Children's Services

Jessica Connors
Michline Haifa
Yasmine Pavlidis
Salamasina Mose
Panayiota Sarris
Kareena Kelly
Amy Elyard
Chloe Brown
Manel Mansour
Rachel Morgan
Amy Simpson
Sarah Merchant
Chantel Lazer
Elif Parer
Jessica Adams
Erin Verzi
Jessica Campbell
Naadeene Hanson

Rebecca Swift
Jocelyn Ganem
Nicole Pearce
Evadnie Kelaart
Blair McKechnie
Michelle Loxley
Jessica Doyle
Ginette Quintus-Bosz
Elesha Williams
Monica Phakka
Keely Pynsent
Brooke Montgomery
Nicole Seijas
Kanwaldeep Kaur
Cara Horsburgh
Rebecca Gebran
Katie Daw
Jessica Austin
Vaishali Yadav
Karen Sly
Ermion-Noni Mouzouros

Hamida Marial
Nicole Crawford
Jaya Ryan
Renee Psarianos
Samira Azzi
Tara Kyle
Kristina Grimes
Marly Bebbington
Claire Meehan

Certificate IV OOSH

Gihan Abi Tannous
Jessica Dutton

Certificate III Disability Work

Rick Marques
Micaly Boerma
Kathleen King

Fee For Service:

Certificate III Children's Services

Tarnia Oliveira
Manel Alameddine
Amanda Leonard

Diploma Children's Services

Lauri Bebbington

Farewell Caroline



Last month we said farewell to Caroline who had been with METS as a childcare trainer/assessor for 7 years.

Caroline has recommenced her early childhood study and has decided to return to the more hands on side of the profession and is working with Penrith

Council in one of their centres. We wish her every success and thank her for all her hard work over the many years.

We would also like to thank all Caroline's students and centres for their patience during the transition of allocating another trainer to continue visits.