

*Improving industry's capacity to develop and maintain a skilled workforce*

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Hello Leesa,

**Ref: The Quality of Teaching in VET: Options Paper**

ForestWorks is pleased to provide a response to your paper. ForestWorks is the Industry Skills Council for the forest, wood, paper and timber products industry and works closely with industry RTOs as well as public RTO's. In this environment there are few full time teachers supplying training to the industry but rather an extensive network of trainers and assessors. It would be rare for the industry training to occur in a classroom and the training itself occurs predominantly after a person has been employed. In a recent national trainers conference for instance, all participants taught on the job in workplaces, even those employed by TAFE.

From this perspective ForestWorks supports:

- that a range of qualifications and entry points be available
- how important it is that understanding the needs of the workplace trainer is as important as understanding the needs of a RTO employed teacher/trainer
- the master practitioner role and the potential involvement of the Industry Skills Council
- in recognising that a teacher/trainer (by focussing on this role) may not keep up with industry production standards (as if they were still doing the skilled position), it becomes essential that industry placement occurs – that current practice, workflow, equipment and learning's are retained and maintained
- the importance of mentoring both from VET experts and industry experts for workplace trainers and assessors
- that peer moderation is an essential component to both build capacity of the trainer as well as maintain a breadth of industry practice

We trust that in conjunction with the Productivity Commission work, this research will ensure that strategies will continue to develop to support the role of the VET trainer and assessor.

Regards,



Michael Hartman  
CEO