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Job help program hits road

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 • Employment

AFTER its success last year, a Queensland project to help attract graduate recruits to the tech sector will have its 2004 launch on March 16.

More than 6000 graduates and up to 10,000 hi-tech employers are expected to take part in this year's Education to Employment (e2e) program, which is supported by the Queensland Government.

The project offers graduates work preparation and awareness, along with links to industry and employers.

Graduate Programs Australia managing director Brandon Thompson said research from the project would be used to help improve career services for students.

The e2e program provides contemporary, practical and usable information, through real-life examples and interactive workshops on key issues in finding work.

Mr Thompson said several universities across the country were considering introducing their own tailored version of e2e to IT students.

"We will use e2e as a vehicle to collect data on the actual needs of the students that the institutions will then use to refine their provision of service," he said.

The project would run for nine weeks at 12 locations from Cairns to Toowoomba and west to Mount Isa.

"We are hoping to increase the numbers this year because we are putting a much heavier focus on TAFE as well as the universities," Mr Thompson said.

The research findings would be completed by May 1.

Mr Thompson said, although the IT job market was still difficult for graduates, a boost in project work by large corporates had created a more positive outlook this year.

A study carried out last year by Graduate Programs Australia found almost 90 per cent of IT graduates rated their chances of securing a job within six months of graduating as "poor to average".

It also found 26 per cent of students did not seek help when applying for work and one-in-four talked only to family and friends.