

Trial matches students to jobs

TRANSITIONS |

More than 26,000 TAFE Queensland students are participating in a three-month trial of an online system matching students with job vacancies and better preparing them for employment.

If successful, the innovative system has the potential to bridge the gap between education and employment for students in TAFE institutes and universities.

e2e.NET, which stands for education to employment network, was developed by Brisbane-based Graduate Programs Australia (GPA).

The online tool consists of 34 interactive online learning modules that cover the key elements of the recruitment and selection process, from finding a job to applying, and winning the position.

Students will access the modules from home through their institute's website.

GPA managing director Brandon Thompson said e2e.NET arose from a five-year research project to identify ways of responding to the "disconnect" between the organisations that recruit graduates, the institutions that train them and the students themselves. That project

involved 8000 students and 1500 employers a year.

"There was a disparity between the assistance that students require to feel better prepared for the transition to employment and the services that were being provided by the educational institutions. It was about service delivery quality from the institutions - it's not their core business," Thompson said.

But he said it was clear that State and Federal Governments - through reforms and initiatives such as the Australian technical colleges - were increasingly seeking better outcomes for their students and focusing on improving links with industry.

"From an institution's point of view, we're enabling them

to deliver this sort of assistance to students across large geographic boundaries in a consistent format and without the need to employ additional staff."

The trial will run at Logan TAFE and the Open Learning Institute (OLI).

OLI director Kay Giles said the idea was for e2e.NET to work alongside Skilling Solutions Queensland and an existing job placement service, to provide students with a seamless transition from making enquiries about courses and qualifications through to gaining those qualifications and then finding employment.

"One of the things that's coming out in the research about TAFE education at the moment is that people really struggle with the complexity of the system," Giles said.

"So having a process that takes people right from enquiry through to employment is really important.

"I hope that we end up with a very modern tool that makes sure that when people finish their TAFE programs they're well prepared for employment and that they actually gain, not just a job, but the right job, the one that they want and the one that suits them."

