

## EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

### Vocational Training Regulations (Amendment)

#### Purpose

The purpose of these amendments is to ensure that the schedule of prescribed vocations under the Vocational Training Act 1989 is relevant to new developments in occupational descriptions, and training, brought about by the award restructuring process and the development of the Australian Traineeship System.

#### Background

Under the Vocational Training Act the Executive can issue regulations as to what occupations come under the Act, such occupations are known as prescribed occupations. There are two classes of prescribed occupations: trades and declared vocations.

Trades are those occupations generally accepted as trades, that is those occupations requiring manual and mental skills. Declared vocations are occupations outside the trades. Under the Act (Section 88) it is illegal to employ any person under 21 in a trade, prescribed under the Act, unless that person is an apprentice or a qualified tradesperson. This does not apply to a declared vocation.

These amendments will create two schedules of prescribed vocations under the Vocational Training Act 1989. Schedule 1 will include trades and schedule 2 declared vocations. The present regulation has only one schedule, "Trades".

Schedule 1 will contain all trades as presently listed plus three new occupational descriptions, these are: Engineering tradesperson-mechanical, Engineering tradesperson-fabrication and Engineering tradesperson-electrical/electronic. These are generic descriptions of the three major career streams contained in the restructured metal trades award. They are not new trades.

Engineering tradesperson-mechanical covers the present trades of Fitting and machining, Engineering tradesperson-fabrication covers the trades of boilermaking and welding, welding and sheetmetal working and Engineering tradesperson-electrical/electronic covers electrical mechanics/fitting, radio television mechanics and office machine and computer servicing. The purpose of the three stream approach is to reduce the number of classifications and produce tradespersons with a broader range of skills.

It is envisaged that in the future the current trades (narrowly defined) will be removed from the schedule but until the new system is entrenched it is considered more appropriate to retain them in order to ensure that all persons employed in these areas come under the provisions of the Vocational Training Act.

Schedule 2 contains declared vocations for the first time. These are occupations covered by the Australian Traineeship System. The reason for making these declared vocations is to ensure that their training programs come under the provisions of the Act (Part IV Divisions 1 to 8).

Chief Minister