



BCATS e-news

Welcome to the October 2007 issue

The BETA group represents the following organisations:

- Building Services ITO
- Electro-technology ITO
- Furniture ITO
- Joinery ITO
- Painting and Decorating ITO
- BCITO
- Flooring ITO
- InfraTrain
- Plumbing ITO

Greetings and welcome. In this issue:

- **Programme launch**
- **ECS Transition Arrangements**
- **Unit Standard Registration**
- **Project Bank**
- **Resource Development**
- **Stage 2 Development**
- **CATE Conference**

Programme Launch

The BETA group plans to officially launch the BCATS programme in early November. A website, new name and look will all be revealed at the launch! The launch will also provide an opportunity to recognise and celebrate the contribution of everyone who has been involved in the development of the programme to date. Details of the launch will be available soon... watch this space...

Resource Development

We are at last on the home stretch with development of the resource and assessment material for the BCATS programme. The final proof-reading is now underway and by the time we get to the launch in November, the website will be populated with all necessary documents to undertake the delivery of the programme in 2008.

Unit Standard Registration

We have hit a small hold-up with NZQA on the registration of the unit standards. While they will still be working their way through the official evaluation process at the time of the launch, we are confident that any changes at that stage will be minor and not impact on the resources available for delivery next year. When the website is launched, draft copies of the unit standards will be available and once they have been officially registered, will be replaced with the registered version. There is no cause for alarm and you will be able to progress with confidence knowing that it is just the i's being dotted and the t's crossed.

Elementary Construction Skills Transition Arrangements

There have been a number of enquiries regarding the expiring Elementary Construction Skills domain, what's happening to the units that are in the domain, and the status of people currently working towards completing an Elementary Construction Skills qualification.

The units in the ECS domain will start to disappear as they get transferred into the BCATS domain (or other domains) as the NZQA evaluation process of the BCATS submission progresses. Some of the ECS units have been "merged" with new BCATS ones to meet the needs of the new broader-scope qualification and others will simply be moved.

Eventually (probably in about six months), there will be no units in the ECS domain and it

will cease to exist.

However, those already working towards completion of the ECS qualification will not be disadvantaged in any way and suitable expiry timeframes will be applied to the soon to be old ECS qualification upon registration of the new BCATS qualification. The BCITO will work closely with all ECS providers to ensure that they are able to make the transition from the old to the new and allow for sufficient timeframes in which existing students will be able to achieve what they have already started.

Stage 2 Development

With the end of 2007 rapidly approaching and the completion and roll-out of the first stage of BCATS almost upon us, we will soon start to look towards the development of stage 2 of this project in 2008. The two areas to be targeted is expected to be an introductory “tasters” programme for years nine and ten, and a proposed construction academy-type programme for year thirteen – which is intended to provide more directional pathways to a post secondary school education in a targeted area of the industry as opposed to the broad spectrum introduction that is experienced in the BCATS Level 1 and 2 programmes.

CATE Conference

We have secured workshop time at the November CATE conference where we will be showcasing the BCATS programme. See you there...

Project Bank Resource

We still have a lot of blank pages that we'd love to fill in the teachers' manual and the publication cut-off date is fast approaching.

A final reminder to all those people who are delivering interesting and exciting programmes and courses that as part of the BCATS resource package, we have developed a teacher's manual. This manual will provide teachers and tutors with a comprehensive range of aids, projects and innovative ideas to assist in the delivery of the units in the BCATS programme.

There are some really great results flowing out of existing programmes run by schools and TEO's throughout the country. So if there is something special that is working for you and your school or organisation that may benefit others, feel free to let us know and if it is appropriate, we'd love to include it in the manual.

Likewise, if you have some great projects (plans, drawings, specs, photos, descriptions etc), we'd also love to be able to include them and recognise those schools and students who submit them.

In addition, over the next couple of weeks we will making a direct contact with schools and TEOs that are delivering stimulating, innovative and challenging programmes, so that these can be included in the manual.

Thank you to those who have responded so far, your contributions are much appreciated.

For further information please contact:

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