

Smart Skills Program

One of the most recent success stories for Real Futures was the receipt of a State Government grant under the Smart Skills program to run a 16-week program for students wanting to test their interest in work in the hospitality industry.

The Skill-It Course, as it was called, was aimed at students who were effectively disengaged from school, characterised by frequent absences from school and heading for an early exit with little training or skills that could lead to a job.

Thirteen students from the Tomaree Peninsula took part in the course. The students were offered work placements with employers in the hospitality

industry from across the Tomaree Peninsula with the employers taking on the role of mentors.

"It was highly successful," said the then-Real Future Program Manager Charlie Elias. "The course was intensive and challenging with students required to complete 12 hours of training plus 12 hours of work placement every week for the 16 weeks it ran. We were very impressed with the attitude and resilience of the students."



Out of the 13 students taking part in the course, nine graduated while the remaining four went on to other work skills training. Of the nine graduating students, eight found some form of paid employment, with one offered a traineeship in hospitality with a restaurant.

Charlie said a big factor in the success of the course was the enthusiasm of the course trainer Ben Cox, from the Tomaree Community College which hosted the classes and the effective support from staff at Tomaree High School.

Funding came from the NSW Department of Industry's State Training Services. Other courses similar to Skill-It are in the planning stage.



Above: Luke Harris & Clay Leatherbarrow
Above Right: Chelsea Peterson on the left & Samantha Blackett

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