Hunter TAFE Partnership to Support Shipping Industry

Hunter TAFE has joined forces with two major interstate maritime training providers to raise the profile of seafarer training and deliver far-reaching benefits for students, the shipping industry, and the Australian government.

Hunter TAFE, Australian Maritime College (Tasmania) and Challenger Institute of Technology (WA) have signed a Memorandum of Understanding to further strengthen and develop maritime education, training and research.

Hunter TAFE Institute Director, Phil Cox, said the aim of the Memorandum is to generate new synergies between the institutions and combine efforts to raise the profile of seafarer training.

“The partnership will help to improve compliance and deliver high-quality educational outcomes for maritime workers and ship owners,” Mr Cox said.

AMC Acting Principal, Professor Neil Bose, said “this will see a new era of cooperation and a national approach to maritime education and training that spans all levels of vocational and higher education qualification and all locations across Australia.”

Challenger Director of Maritime Training Services, Mark Gooderham, said “For all parties, the intention has been to create a much more flexible, responsive and quality supply of internationally-recognised education and training.”

Key points of the MOU include:

- A streamlined credit transfer arrangement, allowing students undertaking Australian Maritime Safety Authority accredited courses to move between the three institutes.
- All vocational units completed at any of the institutes will be applied as credit towards bachelor degrees issued by the University of Tasmania.
- Sharing of resources – for example, skilled staff or infrastructure located at one institute may be used across common curriculum or in new ventures.
- Ensuring maritime vocational training and education reaches emerging regional and industry demand.
- Cooperating with the Maritime Workforce Development Forum, established by the Minister for Infrastructure and Transport, to address skill areas that are fundamental to building a sustainable domestic maritime industry.

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