

CEO's Speech – Governor-General's launch, Yarralumla 9/8/06

- Your Excellency
- Mrs Jeffery
- Government members Stuart Henry and Barry Wakelin
- Apprentices and trainees
- Host employers from Xstrata Copper, Santos, Sertec, Trilogy Maintenance Systems, Mett Pty Ltd, Sydney Turf Club and the ANZ bank
- Group training managers and field officers from as far a field as Mt Isa, Blythe, the South Coast, Perth and all the eastern seaboard capitals
- Partners Air France/KLM
- GTA LTD Chair Charles Dalglish, Board members, executive officers, Worldskills Chair Bob Puffett and senior officials from DEST
- Ladies and gentlemen
- I will keep my remarks short as there is morning tea to be enjoyed, photos to be taken and conversations to be had
- It is my great **pleasure** to be here on behalf of Group Training Australia and the entire group training network
- It is my great **privilege** to be standing alongside our Patron the Governor-General in launching Today's Skills: Tomorrows Leaders 2006
- Today's Skills is all about harnessing the passion, skill, enthusiasm and youthful exuberance of some of the best and brightest apprentices and trainees of the 41,000 under group training arrangements
- It is about highlighting the importance of leadership – at the workplace and in the community
- At a time of national skill shortage – programs like Today's Skills take on added significance
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- The 22 apprentices and trainees gathered here today represent our skilled future - they are showing the way forward for so many others and are magnificent walking and talking advertisements on the value of training
- In an era where hard work often takes a back seat to soft ware, these apprentices and trainees are this generations pioneers and trailblazers
- I believe in the not too distant future, completing a trade apprenticeship will be regarded as equal to graduating with First Class honours
- Today's Skills: Tomorrow's Leaders is in the vanguard of working to life the profile and raise the status of apprenticeships and traineeships
- Once just a rock singer, now regarded as a global political figure, U2's lead singer Bono recently said:

***“But my point is that the world is more malleable than you think and it's waiting for you to hammer it into shape”***

- Bono would approve of Today's Skills: Tomorrow's Leaders as it is all about allowing our young leaders to hammer out the shape of their future
- Here to tell us a bit more about that is one of the 22 – David Crowley.
- Thank you.....