

MEDIA RELEASE: 11 February 2011 - For Immediate Release

Exciting career options overlooked?



Whilst recent attention on TAFE and general vocational training has been focussed on the traditional trade careers, many of the education streams the sector offers leading to fulfilling careers and home based business options, are overlooked.

As an example, the recent introduction of registered BAS agents through the enactment of the Tax Agent Services legislation has created opportunities for both school leavers and mature aged candidates to undertake an accounting or bookkeeping course to enter what is an exciting new career option.

Similar to the legal and medical professions the vertical service structure of the accounting profession is changing. Many of the routine functions accountants performed are being passed to a new, emerging tier of paraprofessionals offering cost effective account keeping services to small, medium size businesses. Vocational qualifications also offer pathways to professional accounting status.

The importance of this group in the context of GST compliance has been emphasised by the need for self employed bookkeepers to register who provide account keeping and BAS preparation services.

The recent revelation by the Australian Taxation Office (ATO) that \$3.2 billion in GST revenue has been lost partly due to the influx of unqualified, inexperienced bookkeepers over the last several years due to the high demand driven by small business outsourcing their bookkeeping.

Robert Hutt, Education and Technical Manager from the Association of Accounting Technicians Australia said that "There are exciting prospects for people wanting a career that as well as offering employment as an account keeper in a small business, they can also gain experience and become a registered BAS agent and start their own business offering bookkeeping services to clients. The self employed option is particularly attractive to women who want to re-enter the workforce and prefer the flexibility of working convenient hours."

Ends:

Enquiries

Robert Hutt

Education and Technical Manager
Association of Accounting Technicians Australia
Telephone: 03 8665 3135 or 0408 772 297
Email: Robert.hutt@aat.org.a