

**Media Release
5 December 2005**

School Holidays an Opportunity to Earn and Learn

High School Students throughout South-East Queensland are using their school holidays as an opportunity to enhance career opportunities in the hospitality and tourism industry.

Students enrolled in the Hospitality Training Association's Futures Employment Program will attend up to two weeks of theory and practical training at HTA College during the December/January holiday period.

The Futures Employment Program provides students in year's ten, eleven and twelve with part-time employment opportunities in leading establishments throughout South-East Queensland.

Unlike any other College in Queensland, HTA's School-Based Apprentices earn while they learn and are paid trainee wages to attend the training.

HTA CEO, Phillip Charlton, said undertaking of formal training and education within the tourism and hospitality industry provides students with job security, portability and financial stability for the future.

"The Futures Employment Program contributes to the development of young persons allowing them to mature within a business environment and be exposed to the realities and expectations of the industry and the workforce.

"Students enrolled in the program receive nationally recognised training by some of Queensland's best trainers and chefs in the industry. They can expect to leave College more informed, confident and prepared for what is a dynamic and fast-paced industry," said Mr Charlton.

Forest Lake College year ten student, Naomi Jonassen, is working at Chifley's on George as part of the Futures Program.



“Although I have only just started my formal training at HTA, I have already learnt so much. The trainers are real chefs from the industry so you feel like you are learning information from the ‘inside’.

“Once I finish High School I could complete a Chef Apprenticeship with HTA in under 2 ½ years, instead of the normal 4 years. That’s a huge bonus,” said Miss Jonassen.

HTA President and Restaurant and Catering Queensland CEO, James Visser, said there were benefits for both the students and the industry.

“Students can utilise the Futures Program as a stepping stone to higher education, an apprenticeship or full-time employment upon completion of high school; while the industry has the opportunity to increase the pool of much needed staff,” Mr Visser said.

As the keystone economic contributor to the economy, the fastest growing industry in Queensland and a thriving source for jobs, students considering their options are being encouraged to look to the Tourism and Hospitality industry to fulfil their career aspirations.

Students interested in participating in the Futures Employment Program can contact HTA on 07 3872 4200 or visit www.hta.org.au.

The Hospitality Training Association Inc. (HTA) is a not-for-profit organisation that has been serving the needs of the Hospitality industry for over twenty years. As Queensland’s largest employer of apprentice chefs, HTA brings together the combined experience and knowledge of the five major associations that are the driving force behind the tourism and hospitality industries in Queensland, Australia:

- Hotel Motel & Accommodation Association of Queensland
- Clubs Queensland
- Restaurant & Caterers Association of Queensland
- Australian, Liquor, Hospitality & Miscellaneous Workers Union
- Queensland Hotels Association

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Hospitality Training Association Inc.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT:

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