



Media Release

Tuesday, 9 August 2011

Teachers school up on sustainability through grant

Teachers Credit Union is sending seven lecturers from Durack Institute of Technology back to school to do a Diploma of Sustainability thanks to a Teachers Environment Fund grant.

Durack Institute of Technology has an active sustainability program, implementing projects including water, energy and waste management initiatives. To continue the advancement of the sustainability program, Durack is using the Teachers Environment Fund grant to create a scholarship for lecturers to increase their knowledge of sustainability.

Bert Beevers, Managing Director of Durack Institute of Technology said; "We saw a need to provide an avenue to better equip our staff to incorporate sustainability principles into their different teaching disciplines. The Credit Union's Teachers Environment Fund helped us develop this competitive scholarship program for our staff.

"We believe that by training our lecturers, they will take the knowledge into their workshops and classrooms and impart what they've learnt to their students, whether it's incorporating solar design in a carpentry course or talking about recycling in a construction course," Mr Beevers said.

The Durack Institute of Technology lecturers who received the 2011 scholarships through the Teachers Credit Union's grant are:

- Alice James: Conservation and Land Management
- Helen Smith: General Education
- Cheryl Galloway: Certificate IV; Training and Innovation
- Andrew Newman: Carpentry and Joinery
- George Kyros: Construction and Rural Industries
- Ann-Maree Baker: OHS and Logistics
- Keith Moncrieff: Fitting and Machining

The Diploma of Sustainability begins on 1 August 2011. The course work will include learning the concepts of sustainability, developing a behavioural change strategy, developing a business plan to achieve a sustainability goal and evaluating the outcome.

Carolyn Murphy, Manager of Teachers Credit Union in Western Australia, said the Teachers Environment Fund existed to assist public schools and TAFEs in their long-term sustainability.

"Through the Teachers Environment Fund, the Credit Union is supporting teachers to improve their knowledge and skills and help staff like those at Durack Institute of Technology deliver best practice training in environmental sustainability to their students. We want to support projects that provide a resource for the school to embed sustainability into students' thinking.

"The Teachers Credit Union grants can be used for any suitable environment project such as water and energy saving, composting and recycling, tree planting and biodiversity or even sponsoring lecturers to take sustainability courses," Ms Murphy said.

Applications for the next round of funding open on Friday, 5 August 2011 and close on Friday, 16 September 2011. Please visit www.teacherscreditunion.com.au for more information or to apply.

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About Teachers Credit Union

Teachers Credit Union is one of the largest credit unions in Australia. With more than 155,000 members nationally and assets of over \$3 billion, Teachers Credit Union has the highest member retention rate of any Australian credit union.

For further enquiries on how to become a member or to apply for a scholarship, visit the website at www.teacherscreditunion.com.au

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