

NETWORKING

Deputy Prime Minister Julia Gillard

was welcomed with a fine morning tea spread last week when she launched the northern suburbs' newest registered training organisation, Spectrum Education and Training. The organisation was established by the Spectrum Migrant Resource Centre as a non-profit social enterprise, primarily to provide courses for the area's many migrants and refugees and help local employers deal with skills shortages.

In its first year, SET will offer certificate II and III-level training, as well as short courses, for more than 200 students, predominantly in areas in which there is a shortage of skills including home and community care, aged care, hospitality, children's services, as well as language, literacy and numeracy and computer training.

Manager of the SET centre, Neil Barlow, says the organisation is taking a new approach to providing courses.

"Our students will undertake these literacy courses parallel to their main course," Mr Barlow says. "The students are not improving their English in isolation — they're not just learning how to ask for directions, but learning, for example in aged



Acting Prime Minister Julia Gillard with (from left) Spectrum course participant Nur Aldemir; team leader Malyun Ahmed; multicultural service office Soha Kalek and customer services officer Alem Mekuria. PICTURE: PENNY STEPHENS

care, how to ask a client if they would like their tablet now."

Victoria University is running a carpentry pre-apprenticeship course to prepare students for work in the building industry.

The 16-week course is available at the Melton campus and the first group starts on May 16. It is designed for those who want a career in the building industry as well as for those wanting to renovate and do small building jobs around their homes.

Are you in the job market or testing the water? Profiler Recruitment boss Lynne Payne has some tips to keep in mind for what she calls "recession-proofing" your career:

- **Be flexible in considering contract work.** It could well lead to a permanent job, is a good opportunity to try before you buy and builds experience in the process.
- **Consider your salary expectations — are they realistic in today's economic climate?**
- **Look for companies that are**

investing in their people and look to attract and retain the best.

- **Keep your skills up to date and transferable to a variety of industries.**
- **Build your business networks — you may need them in the future.**

An open day for aspiring film

directors, sound engineers or animators will be held on May 25 when SAE Institute and Qantm College hold a show-and-tell about various media.

Marco Bettelli, managing director of the SAE Institute says: "SAE and Qantm's open days are tremendously popular among prospective students. This event gives them an insight into the practical, hands-on nature of SAE and Qantm as well as introducing them to the work options available following course completion."

One-hour course information sessions focusing on film, audio and mastering from midday to 3pm will be followed by a live band performance.

Course advisers will be on hand to discuss course and job options.

The SAE Institute is at 235 Normanby Road, South Melbourne. The open day is from 11am to 3pm.

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