Welcome to the second issue of otennews for SEEK students studying with OTEN.

In this issue we profile the extensive experience and commitment of our Community Services Teaching section. We also show how to brush up on your study skills with yourtutor and we acknowledge the wonderful milestone of 50,000 SEEK student enrolments.

To assist your progress with your studies, this issue has some helpful tips plus answers to some frequently asked questions. We'd love to get your feedback on this issue and also hear any suggestions you may have for including information that will help with your studies.

Please contact Cheryl Riley at oten.seek@tafensw.edu.au

Spotlight
Since the first SEEK student enrolment back in March 2006, it has taken only 7 short years for OTEN to achieve 50,000 SEEK student enrolments. A huge milestone!

With distance and online education becoming more popular, our students are located all over Australia and even overseas.

Starting with 23 courses in 2006, over 60 courses are now on offer. The most significant increase of 18 courses in Community Services reflects the demand for qualified skills in this industry.

A big thank you to all our students who have chosen to study with OTEN.

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Celebrating 50,000 SEEK Student Enrolments

In this issue

Featured profile

Celebrity Ambassador Unveiled for Western Sydney Institute
Michael ‘Wippa’ Wipffy from NOVA 96.9FM - Sydney’s highest rating breakfast show “Fitzy & Wippa” - was recently unveiled as Western Sydney Institute’s (WSI) own Celebrity Ambassador.
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Community Services Team

With 18 courses in Community Services on offer to SEEK students, it is an opportune time to feature some of the teachers who deliver these courses to you.
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Brush Up on Your Study Skills

OTEN is now offering students extra study help through yourtutor, a FREE, online, on-demand tutorial service. This service is in addition to the professional support already provided by OTEN’s teachers on the content of your course.
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FAQs

Study Tips

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How do I contact my Teaching Section?
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Since the first SEEK student enrolment back in March 2006, it has taken only 7 short years for OTEN to achieve 50,000 SEEK student enrolments. A huge milestone! With distance and online education becoming more popular, our students are located all over Australia and even overseas. Starting with 23 courses in 2006, over 60 courses are now on offer. The most significant increase of 18 courses in Community Services reflects the demand for qualified skills in this industry. Some of our SEEK OTEN Team (pictured above) recently got together to acknowledge the wonderful milestone of achieving 50,000 SEEK student enrolments. A fantastic barbecue was organised by SEEK and OTEN teams to thank all teaching and clerical staff for all of their hard work and dedication to our students. SEEK Team Manager, Mary Anne Bleazard, acknowledged the effort and dedication shown by all of our students in the pursuit of their personal and career goals. All of the team wish to send a big thank you to all our students who have chosen to study with OTEN.

Brush Up on Your Study Skills

OTEN is now offering students extra study help through yourtutor, a FREE, online, on-demand tutorial service. This service is in addition to the professional support already provided by OTEN’s teachers on the content of your course.

When is it available?
You don’t need to make an appointment. You can get help from a tutor online from 3:00pm to 11:00pm, Sunday to Friday.

How do I log in?
To access this free service, simply log in to the OLS on the OTEN website, then click on the yourtutor logo to go straight to the yourtutor website.

What sort of help do I get?
You get help anonymously from a tutor. Keep in mind that a tutor won’t give you the answer but they will try and guide you through the problem you are struggling with – whether it is referencing, research, business studies, maths, science, English or writing skills.

What happens in a tutorial?
Every student has different needs so each one-on-one tutorial will be different. Tutors take into consideration your specific question, previous learning and current skills to work through the problem with you. Make sure you have your question ready when you access yourtutor.

Will it work on my computer?
Yourtutor works on:

- Windows:
  - Internet Explorer 8 and above
  - Firefox 4 and above
  - Google Chrome
  - Safari 5 and above

- Mac OS X:
  - Firefox 4 and above
  - Google Chrome
  - Safari 5 and above

In this issue

Celebrity Ambassador Unveiled for Western Sydney Institute

Michael ‘Wippa’ Wipfly from NOVA 96.9FM - Sydney’s highest rating breakfast show “Fitzy & Wippa” - was recently unveiled as Western Sydney Institute’s (WSI) own Celebrity Ambassador. Wippa is a TAFE graduate. He studied hospitality and graduated in Building Project Management. He is very passionate about the opportunities that further education provides to individuals and is enthusiastic about TAFE and about people ‘giving further education a go’.

He is hosting a number of ‘On the couch with Wippa’ sessions, where he will be talking to students about studying at WSI and their plans after they finish their courses.

Check out more:
Connect with Wippa via twitter #WSIPal
Watch Wippa on stage at WSI’s Castle Hill College http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kHWdO0ImWpw

Community Services Team

With 18 courses in Community Services on offer to SEEK students, it is an opportune time to feature some of the teachers who deliver these courses to you.

Erica Ashley, Head Teacher of Community Services

"Naturally, there can be no teaching without students, and I remain blessed that through teaching at TAFE, I have been able to teach within a truly supportive, innovative and progressive environment. I hope I have encouraged a passion for learning and vocational education, as well as a belief that anything is possible, in spite of any obstacles or hurdles."

Erica has taught for many years at TAFE, which has enabled her to pursue her professional aspirations and goals.
Leon Fernandes has worked in Alcohol and Other Drugs and related sectors for 15 years, in a variety of contexts including residential work, community education, workforce development and drug user activism. He is especially interested in community development, sociology and consumer rights. He completed his Diploma in Community Welfare at TAFE before heading onto university and attaining a Bachelor’s Degree in Social Science.

“I had a great experience as a student at TAFE and found it inspiring. I’m happy to be using my experiences as a student and as a professional to feed into my work at OTEN”

For over 13 years Theresa Caruana has been in the community services sector doing direct service work, policy development, resource production, communications and training. Theresa has a Masters of Public Health, Graduate Diploma in Editing and Publishing, and a BA (Hons) in Gender Studies. She joined OTEN in November 2010 as a teacher in alcohol, other drugs and mental health, and enjoys guiding passionate learners into careers within this vital and rewarding field.

Goran Otomancek has been a teacher at OTEN since April, 2007 and before that worked in the acute (clinical) mental health services since 1996 as a Registered Nurse. This role saw him work across areas including acute psychiatric intensive care, forensic mental health, rehabilitation and community implementation units attached to an area health service. He has also worked as an Aged Care Manager and continues to maintain currency within the clinical mental health services by working on a casual basis as a Registered Nurse as time allows. He holds undergraduate Bachelor Degrees in Business (Accounting) and Nursing, as well as Master Degrees in Health Services Management and Defence Studies.

“Working for OTEN has given me the great opportunity to impart my knowledge and experience to so many students, who are keen to enhance their careers in the mental health services sector. OTEN has given me the chance to utilise a range of technologies and assessment methods to provide a great learning experience to all our students.”

For the past decade Althea Mackenzie has focussed on developing and delivering adult and community education. Her areas of expertise include facilitation and training, coaching and mentoring in the not-for-profit sector, stigma and discrimination, communication skills, adaptive leadership, project evaluation. Specific target groups have included young people, people living with hepatitis C, GLBTI issues. Althea’s specialties include designing and delivering training, mentoring, facilitation, project evaluation and communication.

And last but not least, Michelle Watters, Head Teacher of Community Services, has worked at OTEN for the last eight years and previously in a number of different colleges as a part-time teacher. She has 25 plus years working in Community Services and Disability.

“I am passionate about ensuring each and every student has a positive educational experience. OTEN has the opportunity to meet each student’s individual study needs. Community Services is a challenging and rewarding field to work in and there are endless study and employment pathways available. I love talking to students who find themselves on one of these pathways and find a course that works for them at OTEN.”

For Test supervision at venues in Brisbane, Melbourne and at our Strathfield site in Sydney. You will need a copy of the Test Application form which is available on the OLS as an electronic file. NB It will be noted in your unit assessment information if you are required to complete a test.

### Dates for Test

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Venues</th>
<th>Dates</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Brisbane</td>
<td>Australian Catholic University</td>
<td>29 June 2013, 10 August 2013, 5 October 2013, 2 November 2013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Melbourne</td>
<td>Carlton Neighbourhood Learning Centre</td>
<td>29 June 2013, 27 July 2013, 31 August 2013, 21 September 2013, 26 October 2013, 23 November 2013, 7 December 2013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sydney</td>
<td>OTEN</td>
<td>6 July 2013, 3 August 2013, 7 September 2013, 5 October 2013, 2 November 2013, 7 December 2013</td>
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Brisbane tests are held at the Australian Catholic University
Banyo Campus
1100 Nudgee Road
Banyo QLD 4014
on a Saturday at 9 am
on the following dates:

Melbourne tests are held at the Carlton Neighbourhood Learning Centre
20 Princes Street
Carlton North
Melbourne VIC 3054
on a Saturday at 9am
on the following dates:

Sydney tests are held at OTEN
51 Wentworth Road
Strathfield NSW 2135
on a Saturday from 8am
on the following dates:
Our student in profile, Robina Bagnall, was asked to share some study tips we hope you find these useful.

"Time management has been my biggest hurdle as my only chance to study is in between fishing tournaments, boss trips and crossing between countries.

I am a self-taught chef working on an 82ft private sport fishing vessel and travel the world chasing game and sport fish with my husband. We have a crew of 5 and have just added a 42ft sport fishing boat to our fleet this year, so not only are we busy fishing, but the up-keep and maintenance is full-time work as well.

My husband has run a successful business in the past and as I have no business knowledge whatsoever I chose to take on a challenge with the hope of getting an understanding of how to run a small business.

I would recommend studying with OTEN to others, as being able to study at your own pace really helps with a busy work schedule and the teacher support is always there when you need it.

Study tips to help you

Our student in profile, Robina Bagnall, was asked to share some study tips we hope you find these useful.

"Time management has been my biggest hurdle as my only chance to study is in between fishing tournaments and fishing trips. I would love to say that I am organised and stick to a study schedule - this helps me to make progress through my course."

FAQs

How do I change my personal details?
You can log onto e-Services Logon page and change your own contact details. Alternatively, you can contact your SEEK/OTEN Project Officer to change them for you.
Cheryl Riley 02 9715 8684
John Markouiris 02 9715 2953

How do I contact my Teaching Section?
Once you have logged onto the OLS, click on the menu heading Unit Information, then Contact a Teacher. Contact details include a direct phone number, toll free phone number, fax number and an email address.

When does my course expire?
Certificate III and Certificate IV courses - your course ends 2 years from your original enrolment date.
Diploma and Advanced Diploma courses – your course ends 3 years from your original enrolment date.
If you would like to clarify your exact date, please contact either:
Cheryl Riley 02 9715 8684 or
John Markouiris 02 9715 8531

Featured profile

Five Minutes with SEEK Student Robina Bagnall

Robina and her husband fishing off the coast of Alaska.

I chose to study by correspondence through OTEN as they offer great support. Being able to study at your own pace really appealed to me as I have a full-time job and planned to study in between fishing tournaments, boss trips and crossing between countries.

OTEN’s Certificate IV in Marketing is much more than I expected but I have embraced it and am doing well so far. The teacher feedback is extremely helpful and appreciated.

I would recommend studying with OTEN to others, as being able to study at your own pace really helps with a busy work schedule and the teacher support is always there when you need it.