

## MEDIA STATEMENT

### Response to Electrical Trades Union (ETU) Media Release

**29 September 2022**

The Australian Industry Trade College (AITC) holds the wellbeing of our young people in the highest regard. Our purpose is to enable and empower young people to find their purpose and proudly pursue a pathway in industry.

The College is an independent school approved by the Non State Schools Accreditation Board and Queensland Curriculum and Assessment Authority. The College provides a two to three-year deliberately different, industry-driven education program that develops the character and values, academic and enterprise skills, employability skills, and industry readiness of young people.

The AITC Employment Skills Development Program (ESDP) is approved by the Queensland Government Department of Employment, Small Business and Training, and includes a mix of formal and informal career and employability education and training activities to prepare young people for employment or further training, in addition to delivering senior schooling. It is this unique program, together with the practical skills gained from industry, that set our graduates apart.

Work experience only forms one aspect of the AITC program. Industry 'blocks' for young people are a combination of skills development, charity work, vocational training, work experience, work placements, and a school-based apprenticeship or traineeship, allowing young people to hone their skills by completing more than the standard 30 days.

AITC Industry Consultants walk with each young person to coach, guide and support them through their work experience, work placements and school-based apprenticeship or traineeship, developing their employability skills, industry-readiness and character through regular feedback and site visits. Employers are selected on standards, such as safety and their support for education. Industry Consultants conduct risk assessments prior to work experience or work placement taking place.

The AITC recognises the importance of the intrinsic value of hard work and showing an employer what you have to offer through standing up, standing proud and standing out – because when young people thrive, we know communities, industries and economies do too. Our Industry Consultants ensure AITC young people are not taken advantage of for their strong employment values and skills.

Our College is about developing Queensland's brightest sparks to have a successful future and sustainable career. We do this by providing a deliberately different, industry-driven educational experience, which has seen continued success for thousands of young people over 15 years.

Currently, 81% of our Year 12s are in a school-based apprenticeship or traineeship, while they complete their Queensland Certificate of Education, because employers recognise the resilience and real life experience AITC young people have built up through their industry block, including, but not limited to, their work experience – hundreds of parents recognise the importance of this too.

All teachers at the College are registered with the Queensland College of Teachers.

The AITC is the leading senior school (Years 10-12) of choice for students wanting a work-ready education. With six campuses across South East Queensland, our students emerge with their high school certificate as well as a positive employment outcome of their choice.

**ENDS**

*For media enquiries, please contact Nicole de Vries on 0423 852 969.*