

WINNER

EXCELLENCE IN A LEARNING RESOURCE

WORKSPACE TRAINING

FLOORING TECHNOLOGY PROJECT



(L-R): Andrew Hart, AITD Board Director; David McElvenny, Workspace Training; Kath Ware, Workspace Training and Jim Vaughan, Vaughan Consulting Software Solutions.

Floor covering installation is a very practical activity. Like most trades, there is a lot of background knowledge that an apprentice must acquire during the course of their training.

The *Flooring Technology* learning resource, by Workspace Training, is an interactive website and matching set of print-based learner guides and workbooks, designed for apprentices undertaking the *Certificate III in Flooring Technology (LMF31208)*. The learning resource supports 27 core and elective competencies from the trade qualification. These competencies are clustered into 17 learning units, to allow for integrated training and assessment where appropriate.

Specifically designed for learners with poor literacy and numeracy skills, all text is written in plain English, and there is an optional voice-over narration. Where relevant, YouTube video clips are also linked to particular topics, showing installation techniques being demonstrated by industry experts.

The website contains learning materials, interactive exercises, graphics and photos with a voice-over narration of the main text. Each online unit has a

corresponding print-based learner guide and workbook, downloadable from the website in PDF and Word formats.

Many teachers use the online version and printed guides in their training delivery. In a classroom, the online lesson pages are screened to the group via a data projector, complete with voice-over narration, teacher led discussions are followed up with the workbook learning activities. With one-to-one training or distance learning, the teacher can use a similar approach to present new material and follow up with activities.

The learner guides contain all of the content material shown on the website, other than the interactive exercises and some photos. The workbook contains the learning activities and assignments, and are suitable for classroom use and handwritten answers to questions.

Assessment tasks, including practical demonstration checklists, help ensure that teachers are assessing all elements of the units thoroughly and are maintaining consistency in their assessment decisions, both within TAFE and among RTOs.

The *Flooring Technology* has been adopted as the primary learning

resource by all TAFE colleges and RTOs in Australia that deliver this qualification. TAFE colleges and industry RTOs are free to customise the assessment activities to meet their own organisation's requirements and assessment tool structure. The resource provides an industry endorsed benchmark for all training providers, means that the job of cross-validation and comparison of assessment outcomes is much easier.

The *Flooring Technology* was developed by Workspace Training, with assistance of TAFE teachers, RTO trainers, industry experts and product manufacturers. It is available free to learners enrolled in a formal training course and members of the general public seeking information. Although the primary audience for the resource was apprentice floor layers, the website appears to be developing a following among do-it-yourself enthusiasts and people who are seeking information on products and installation techniques.