



NEWS Release – For immediate release – Release Date: 20th Oct 2006

Catholic Schools make Workshops Safer for Children

The Catholic Education Office of Parramatta and ITE Services won the prestigious **National Safety Council of Australia Award for 'Best Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) Training Program'**. Bruce Lewis from ITE Services, Greg Whitby, Executive Director of Schools Parramatta Diocese, and Catholic Education Office OHS Coordinator, Harry McNaught accepted the award at a ceremony at the annual NSCA Awards ceremony in Sydney on the 5th October 2006.

In a submission to the National Safety Council of Australia, the Catholic Education Office of Parramatta, stated that since implementing the ITE Services' product - '**OnGuard' Safety Training Program** in 2004, they have had **zero reportable incidents in workshops** across their twenty one (21) secondary schools.

The multimedia teaching and learning resource - '**OnGuard' Safety Training Program**, provides students with safety and operating information about machinery and equipment, and then assesses students' knowledge using an online test that generates a Certificate of Safety when they achieve a 100 per cent test score.

"Prior to me developing this program, there was nothing available that catered to the very specific safety training needs of workshops in secondary schools. So I began to develop a safety training program for workshop teachers, to help manage student learning in the use of high **risk machinery and a range of other workshop tools and equipment**. Even though workshop teachers are very careful and make sure the children in their care are safe, workshops in schools can perhaps be one the most dangerous environments that a child enters in their schooling years. **Children as young as twelve are using machinery in school workshops capable of amputating fingers and hands.**" said Mr Lewis.

Deborah Jones of ITE Services said "Our **OnGuard' Safety Training Program** is being used by a diverse client base that reaches across all states of Australia, including the full range of government and non-government education systems. We are thrilled to be making a significant impact on the level of school workshop safety across Australia."

ENDS

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