

## MEDIA RELEASE



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### Hands-on workplace safety induction centre opens in Perth

A state of the art training centre designed to enhance safety practices among leading resource and energy companies will be officially opened in Perth today.

The centre in Bibra Lake will see leading West Australian occupational safety and health trainer, IFAP, join forces with Induction Centres Australia (ICA) to deliver standardised, benchmarked one day induction training, in a practical environment using real equipment and interactive scenarios.

ICA was established in 2004 and is establishing a national network of workplace training centres.

ICA was the vision of leaders from some of the world's largest resource and energy companies who saw a need to lift the bar on safety awareness within the industry. Foundation support to establish up to [15] centres across Australia was secured from Woodside, BHP Billiton, BP, Mobil, CSBP, Caltex, Shell, Transfield Services and WorleyParsons.

Participants in ICA courses receive an electronic safety passport card which is accepted by all participating companies and the industry-wide Construction Safety Awareness or blue card.

The first centre was opened in Kwinana in 2006 and in June 2007 the Kwinana operation relocated to the new centre at Bibra Lake. Other centres are either planned or under construction in Gladstone, Karratha, Victoria, Adelaide, New South Wales, Singapore, Kuala Lumpur and Qatar.

ICA Operations Manager, Corey Hannan said "ICA centres are unique because they have moved beyond the traditional sit and listen teaching model and expose participants to real-life scenarios using real equipment. Research shows that participants retain four times more information when they are engaged in 'hands-on' training. The vision of these centres is to improve current safety standards by taking training out of the class room and into real-life scenarios to test their skills and understanding of fundamental safety issues common to all sites."

"All equipment is operational and is arranged around a central 'plant'. The aim is for the induction to be as hands-on and interactive as possible. We engaged industry in the development of our centres and course content and the result is a common induction process to highlight basic skills and safety awareness."

IFAP's Managing Director Martin Ralph said, "Although the centres were originally designed for the offshore oil and gas industry, they are equally

relevant across all industries, particularly those that involve high risk operations.”

“The centre is flexible and training covers 25 areas including: personal safety, working at height, scaffolding, isolation and tagging, confined space, excavation, and hot work.”

Although employees will be the major beneficiaries of this unique approach to training due to their increased level of risk awareness, companies will also benefit from the cost and time savings created through the alignment of the induction program and the Construction Safety Awareness competencies.

The new Bibra Lake site will be launched on the 26<sup>th</sup> of November by special guest, 2005 Australian of the Year Professor Fiona Wood.

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