

# TELIT Cabling Newsletter ©

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## Customer Cabling, Compliance, Industry Regulation and the Impact on Productivity!

In the last two print versions of our TELIT we wrote about “compliance” being essential but not hard to implement - if the will was there – and the critical role of cablers and cabling in a world of marketing buzz words and the “Internet of Things” where cabling – although absolutely critical – becomes something of a poor cousin.

In many community and industry discussions, productivity is mentioned but not examined critically in the context of an industry that now has reduced the directly employed, trained workforce to the lowest levels in history, in favour of contracting and sub-contracting. And where industry de-regulation and market forces too often allow quality work to become a thing of the past.

The cost of rework due to poor industry practices and poor workforce training is often covered up in workforce dispatch systems and in hand off arrangements between carriers, contractors and Internet Service Providers. In major buildings, a lot of unnecessary extra costs are simply passed on to unwitting customers by the building owners due to poor regulation.

In the domestic and small business environment it is often the case that poor initial service standards have a direct and immediate impact on customers and many call back radio conversations attest to this. It has got worse with the rollout of the NBN where confusion on the roles of TELSTRA, NBNC0 and Service Providers/ISPs that is, the retailers, is widespread.

The telecommunications and data industry is large and a critical piece of infrastructure. It is vital in advocating for the common interest and to set aside the competitive components.

TITAB works with a number of industry bodies, government agencies, enterprises and trainers. They try to improve training standards, implement professional development, provide career pathways, boost compliance, develop industry codes and Quality Assurance arrangements that can collectively make the industry better to work in and at the same time improve national productivity.

There is no silver bullet; but seemingly small things can help now, such as being technically savvy, issuing compliance forms (TCA1), making sure CPR registration and training is up to speed, supporting industry codes and working in as many forums as possible to promote the industry in the interests of participants and Australia as a whole. **Note: To keep up to date please provide email address if you have not done so.**  
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## Trade versus University: A Breakdown of Employability, Costs and Earning Potential

This article was written by Lauren Ahwan and Melanie Burgess (News Corp Australia Network)



SCHOOL leavers interested in learning a trade but dissuaded by society's bias toward university are encouraged to genuinely compare the two options. When it comes to employability, cost and earning potential, a trade option often can come out on top.

NECA Electrical Apprenticeships general manager Tom Emeleus says more school leavers are going to university based on a myth that it is the only way to secure a strong future but fewer jobs require a degree than many people think. "We're setting up a generation of youth with unrealistic job expectations and large debt," he says.

"In NSW there are 10 qualified school teachers seeking employment for every available job. This is just one of numerous examples. "Tradies understand the value of a trade and the career opportunities it represents but the message isn't getting through to school leavers."

### EMPLOYABILITY

Of 2014's apprentice and trainee graduates, 84.1 per cent were employed after completion, the National Centre for Vocational Education Research finds. Of university graduates from the same year, by comparison, 68.8 per cent of those looking for full-time work found it within four months, Graduate Careers Australia data shows. Emeleus says electrical apprentices in particular have high employment rates and 99 per cent of NECA apprentices are immediately hired.

Electrician Ben Proudfoot does not regret his choice to pursue a trade over university as he was hired straight out of his apprenticeship by host employer Stowe Australia. Proudfoot, a NECA graduate, says his parents never pressured him to go to university but some of his friends that chose that path did not understand the appeals of an apprenticeship – although now they do. "Some of them are happy with what they are doing but some go 'oh I wish I had a trade' when they see what I can do," he says.



### STUDENT DEBT AND EARNINGS

University fees differ depending on degree and institution but range from \$6000 to \$10,000 a year. An apprenticeship, on the other hand, is paid for by the employer so the apprentice can graduate without debt. They also earn while they learn unlike with a university degree, during which students must rely on parents or work part time on top of study.

A first-year apprentice bricklayer employed on award rates, for example, usually earns \$12.78 an hour, increasing to \$20.07 an hour as a fourth-year apprentice. In electrical trades, Emeleus says an apprentice will typically earn \$150,000 over the course of their training.

### GRADUATE SALARY

The median annual starting salary for a new bachelor degree graduate younger than 25 and in their first full-time job was \$54,000 in 2015, Graduate Careers Australia reveals. By comparison, NCVET finds the median annual income of a VET graduate working full time is \$56,000. For those employed before finishing training, the median was even higher at \$59,000. Emeleus says new electricians on award rates start on \$56,000 but many in the construction industry can earn as much as \$80,000 to \$91,000 a year straight out of their apprenticeship.

Flush with cash: Australia's best paid tradies.

TAFE NSW Illawarra Institute director Di Murray says people are surprised how far a trade, and vocational education, can take them. "You only have to think about how much you might pay a plumber to come in and do some work for you – trade qualifications can pay very well," she says. It is the ability to use a trade qualification to start your own business that is key to a higher income. As is gaining qualifications in an area experiencing skills shortages.

Toby Clare, 29, dropped out of a business degree at university and instead studied plumbing and carpentry. Now a licensed plumber and builder, Clare says he is so busy he is turning work away. "I was fairly confident I could earn just as much money doing a trade as I could have if I'd stayed at uni (and gone into a career in business)," he says.

Ultimately, any career has the potential to be highly profitable though, according to university professor Maurice Pagnucco. Pagnucco is head of computer science and engineering at the University of NSW, which topped the list of Australian universities with the most millionaire graduates. "It would be misleading to say that if you want to become a millionaire you have to do this particular course," he says.

"I would just say ... do something you are passionate about because if you do that you are much more likely to want to work hard at it.

## Factors that can Affect your Internet Experience

*(This article was written by nbn™)*

From the equipment you use, to the network itself, there are a number of factors that can have an impact on your internet experience.

**The set-up at your home or business**

It's always worth looking at your internal set-up to see if you are getting the most out of your connection.

**Networking equipment**

Check the quality of your networking equipment (modems and routers). A better modem/router could transform your experience into something spectacular.

**Wi-fi interference**

Other electronics can also affect your wi-fi connection. Mobile phones, micro-waves and TVs rely on radio signals, so having your router placed as far away from these devices as possible can help.

**The amount of devices online at the same time**

If you have many users and many devices and you do things like stream video on a regular basis, you should discuss higher speed plan options with your service provider to ensure the best experience.

**Your phone and internet service provider**

Your choice of service provider can have a big influence on your internet experience.

**Network congestion**

The way a service provider configures and shapes their network can have an effect on how you experience the internet - particularly during peak usage times. Understanding how different service providers approach congestion during peak usage times should influence who you choose.

**The speed tiers and plans offered by phone and internet service providers**

Not all service providers offer plans based on the full range of wholesale speeds offered by the nbn™ network. When choosing the right speed and plan through your service provider, make sure you take into account your own needs – how many devices you will have online at once and what you will be using the internet for.

**The quality of the wi-fi unit provided by the service provider with your connection**

The wi-fi unit provided by your service provider will have an effect on the amount of devices that you can connect simultaneously online. It will also have an influence on how far the signal strength extends throughout your premises. Check with your service provider if the wi-fi unit they provide will meet your expectations.

**The nbn™ network**

nbn is building and maintaining the national broadband network across Australia. There are a large number of network components and cables used to connect your home to the internet and sometimes things go wrong. If you have trouble with your connection, contact your service provider, they have the tools to troubleshoot and determine if and where a fault may lie. If the fault is detected in the nbn™ network, they will work with your provider to get your service restored.

nbn is a wholesaler which means they do not sell directly to the public. To connect to the nbn™ network, you need to speak to your phone and internet provider about a plan that best suits your needs.

Editors Note: *This article was provided for cablers to better understand the nbn "experience" from the consumers point of view!*

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### Standards Australia

[www.standards.org.au](http://www.standards.org.au)

### Underground Cable Locations

[www.1100.com.au](http://www.1100.com.au)

### A2A and Network Boundary Issues

[www.telstra.com.au/smartcommunity/mybuilder.html](http://www.telstra.com.au/smartcommunity/mybuilder.html)

[robert.pitman@team.telstra.com](mailto:robert.pitman@team.telstra.com)

### Telstra high load passage

Email : [high.loads.telstra@team.telstra.com](mailto:high.loads.telstra@team.telstra.com)

FAX: 07 3013 2607

### Registered Cablers Website

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### Smartwired

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### ADTIA

[www.adtia.asn.au](http://www.adtia.asn.au)