



Principals End of Year Report for 2016

It has been another busy year and more positive than previous years. I will give some insight to the year that AAMS has achieved in 2016 and moments that have shaped us for the future of 2017 and beyond. To start off, AAMS added Certificate III in Individual Support, Certificate IV in Disability, Certificate IV in Commercial Cookery and the Diploma of Community Services to its scope early in 2016. We are now adding **two new campuses** to our delivery sites; Mawson in Canberra and Kent Street in Sydney CBD. These new sites will offer the Diploma of Community Services and the Diploma of Hospitality Management. Intakes will begin from the 23rd of January 2017.

AAMS has been granted approval for Smart and Skilled Government subsidised funding along with approval for Austudy, ABSTUDY, Youth Allowance and Pensioner Education Supplement.

These are great milestones as we are now better positioned to support domestic students with funding from Training Services NSW and the Department of Human Services.

AAMS has just had its 402 Training and Research sponsor visa (12 months) upgraded to the new 407 Training visa for 5 years. These endorsements show, that AAMS is compliant and suitability approved by the Department of Immigration, Training Services NSW and the Department of Human Services.

Currently AAMS has candidates on the Training and Research visa from Nepal and Philippines undertaking cookery and chef duties to improve their existing skills in Australia on a 12 month study program. We are expecting more to follow as this is a great opportunity for experienced workers to refine their skills in Australia before heading back or seeking employment in other countries.

GRADUATION

In November our graduating students were invited along with their families to join in a celebration of achievements. I would like to thank the following distinguished guests who gave up their valuable time to be a part of this event. The Mayor of Blacktown City Council, Sergeant of Blacktown police, Council members and migration agents.

Over 90 people attended the ceremony to see students receive a Certificate of Completion as well as a long stem rose. The ceremony was followed by a full hot and cold buffet, prepared in-house by our Hospitality students. Pictures of this event can be found on our Facebook page. Many more students had graduated, but work commitments prevented them from attending.

CURRENT STUDENT NUMBERS

Currently we have over 350 active students, whilst most attend weekly classes there are around 60 students currently undertaking work placement. This is a valuable step in their learning by applying their knowledge in the field.

Our student demographic is predominantly Filipino, with many having a nursing background come to study Disability & Community services.

Philippines - 40%

India - 30%

Nepal - 13%

South Korea - 2.4%

Mauritius - 2.1%

Malaysia - 1.7%



Pakistan - 1.4%

Indonesia - 1.0%

Brazil, Italy, Fiji, Ghana, Greece, Nigeria, Poland, Thailand, Vietnam - 0.7%

Austria, Egypt, Hong Kong, Kenya, Papua New Guinea, Sri Lanka, Sudan - 0.3%

IMPROVEMENTS TO THE CAMPUS

1. Emergency lighting has been upgraded within the college including every classroom and the toilet areas in the event of a blackout.
2. Students now enjoy more new computers and faster internet with 2 new servers installed in September, windows 10 pro installed and 15 older computers replaced. There are more improvements scheduled in the New Year.
3. Part of our students achievements are proudly displayed on the college hallways which is a marvellous sight when entering the college to see. It ranges from graduation pics, work placement, excursions, catering and classwork involvement.

STAFFING

This year very few staff changes happened, with only one staff member moving on. We wish Nikki from reception all the best with her new venture. On a brighter note, AAMS welcomes our new Hospitality trainer Shailendra who has worked in quality restaurants and 4-5 star hotels during his career. Another addition to our staffing is Shania, who is the new receptionist.

EXCURSIONS/EXTRACURRICULAR STUDENTS

Each semester disability trainers usually take their class on some form of excursion. This is good team bonding as well as visiting homeless people in the CBD, drug and alcohol centres, etc. Getting an understanding that there are many forms of disability and community service needs out there. Even one of our cookery students undertook her work placement in Ashfield at the Exodus foundation who feed the homeless and disadvantaged.

More than 50% of our students are employed in these areas of study long before they graduate. The college has received news recently that over 60 current and past students have received citizenship or a 457 working visa.

NOTICES FOR NEXT YEAR

The college will break for Christmas on the 10th December 2016 and resume on the 16th of January 2017 for new students. On the 23rd of January 2017 all other students return.

The next graduation will be around August 2017, where we acknowledge the outstanding achievements of our students.

There have been small changes to the Hospitality Training Package and AAMS will be delivering the new courses early in 2017.

In closing, all the best for Christmas and the New Year.

Regards,

Mr. Glen Coates

Grad Cert Mgt, AvDip Hos, Dip QA, Dip VET, JP



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AUSTRALIAN ACADEMY OF MANAGEMENT & SCIENCE

CRICOS Provider No.: 02882M RTO Code: 91354

Principal

Australian Academy of Management & Science

14 Douglas Road Quakers Hill NSW 2763

Tel: +612 9837 4213 | Fax: +612 9837 4273 | Mob: +61 410 613 546

glen.coates@aams.nsw.edu.au | www.aamsaustralia.com.au

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