



Miles Morgan Australia Excellence in Career Development in the Community Award 2011

Mariana Joseph

Mariana Joseph is one of only two career counsellors in the Career Development Service at the Central Institute of Technology in WA. The Institute is a large public provider of vocational training that is committed to producing highly skilled graduates. Mariana's office offers intensive career counselling to all of the students at CIT, who number over 31 000 and range from 15 years upward. Her contribution to the Career Development Services section of the Institute has been crucial for the growth and progression of its current and graduate students, many of whom are at risk of disengaging from vocational education and training.

Mariana's main contribution to the CIT's Career Development Services has been the introduction of flexible new ways of delivering those services. These include online or phone delivery of career counselling for students who cannot access face-to-face consultations due to distance, work commitments or health conditions. She has instituted career workshops that are delivered in collaboration with lecturers and are tailored to students' learning styles. They are administered either one-on-one or as full in-class workshops and in addition to traditional career advice, include information on how best to complete a CIT admissions form, how to market oneself to the workforce and how to apply for CIT's scholarships and awards. Mariana has also started an alternative course selection initiative. She advises unsuccessful applicants to CIT's courses on how best to increase their skill level by completing relevant prerequisite courses. This will allow them to eventually gain entry to their chosen course.

These initiatives have been invaluable for many students, especially those who have learning disorders or have experienced family, financial and health problems. Mariana has represented the career development profession to an excellent standard and continues to see an increase in her number of clients each year.