



**MELBOURNE, AUSTRALIA  
REQUESTS YOUR ATTENDANCE  
AT A VERY SPECIAL WORLDSKILLS GENERAL ASSEMBLY,  
MAY 2006**

On the 6th May, 2006, the family of WorldSkills Australia will warmly welcome you to the city internationally ranked last year to be the most livable in the world.

**The city of Melbourne**

Picturesque, with a perfect crisp and sunny climate, Melbourne is a secure city. It is energetic, cosmopolitan and friendly. A city of 4 million people - enjoying city parks, galleries, gardens, 200 nationalities and 150 languages.

There is a long history of successfully hosting important events with a progressive and pro-business government in Melbourne. This 'walkable' city enjoys the largest concentration of national and international business headquarters in Australia.

The city exudes vibrancy and a freedom of spirit that has nurtured both a focused global workforce and an exciting arts and cultural life.

We want you to absorb this experience while attending to the important matters of the General Assembly Meetings and the WS Leaders Forum.

Last year, Melbourne was not only ranked the World's Most Livable City by the Economist Intelligence Unit in London but was also voted the World's Best Congress City by the Association Internationale des Palais de Congres (AIPC) in 2000. Significant accolades judged from more than 130 cities worldwide.

**Excitement in 2006!**

It's our 25<sup>th</sup> Year! There will be a lot to see and to celebrate in Melbourne.

Concurrently from 5<sup>th</sup> to the 7<sup>th</sup> May 2006, in the Melbourne Exhibition & Convention Centre, WorldSkills Australia will be hosting our National Competition finals – an estimated 40 skill categories under one roof. It will be our best Nationals ever presented, with the full support of the industry leaders and governments of our country.

A short walk from your five star hotel, the Langham, or your Travelodge hotel, you will have the opportunity to experience our commitment and presentation, our wonderful young people and the hundreds of volunteers and staff who are the strength of WorldSkills Australia. It will be the celebration of a nation.

In March 2006, Melbourne has also been chosen to host the Commonwealth Games – the city will be overflowing with energy and celebration in early May.

## **Location for the Assembly**

We have chosen Melbourne because it offers the General Assembly a rare opportunity.

Australia's National Competition Finals and the General Assembly hotels and meeting rooms are within a few minutes walk of each other - yet still positioned in the most perfect location in the quiet heart of this very pretty city, on the River Yarra.

Your conferencing Hotel is part of the Langham five star luxury group and will provide the General Assembly and WS Leaders Forum with an international standard of excellence in service and amenities.

## **The General Assembly Meeting**

Melbourne's most definitive venue, the Langham Ballroom is the 'high note' in function facilities within the Southgate area of the city. A wood paneled suite of elegant conference rooms and dining facilities has been secured for your use over four days. With panoramic city and river views with a top floor outdoor terrace, a memorable General Assembly and WS Leaders Forum is assured.

## **The WS Leaders Forum**

WorldSkills Australia will work hard on the development of this Forum with the WS Secretariat and Executive Board. We anticipate successfully encouraging education, training and industry leaders to Melbourne for a gathering of significant importance – to complement to the General Assembly meeting.

We believe that we will secure speakers such as the Prime Minister of Australia, Australia's Minister for Education and Training, the CEO of the Australian Industry Group (a Director of WSA), media and other industry magnates, the World Bank, the Australian Council of Trade Unions and more.

## **Our Support**

In our preparation for this invitation to the WorldSkills General Assembly, we have collaborated at length with the Government of Victoria. We have secured the total commitment of the Premier of Victoria, Hon Steve Bracks and his departments of Education and State Development. Mr Bracks has invited you all to a welcome reception which he will host in your honour.

We have also received the support of the City of Melbourne, the Mayor extending his written welcome and promise of involvement.

The Victorian Minister of Education and Training, Hon Lynne Koskey, has expressed her written support “ *Melbourne's reputation for friendliness and efficiency make it an ideal location for the conference....Melbourne is a colourful, sophisticated city with a youthful, bright and forward looking attitude, with everything to make your conference an outstanding success. We look forward to offering you a warm welcome.* ”

We have an extraordinary business support network and volunteer contingency already secured for our National Finals in Melbourne in 2006.

We have demonstrated with our Nationals held in Brisbane in May 2004 that we can secure a very high level of media exposure for our events. In 2006, the spotlight will be on Melbourne for the Commonwealth Games to be held in March of the same year – WorldSkills Australia will be part of that spotlight on Melbourne. The General Assembly and WS Leaders Forum would take advantage of unprecedented media coverage to further highlight the global mission of WorldSkills.

### **Australia's Credentials**

Over the past 23 years WorldSkills Australia (previously the WorkSkill Australia Foundation and the Youth Skill Olympics) has worked to encourage Australian business and industry to value skills excellence and to challenge Australia's youth to be proud skill achievers and future business leaders. We have been instrumental in changing attitudes towards trades and tradesmen and women.

We have been at the forefront of promoting the essential criteria of a Smart and Skilled Australia – and the world.

Through its membership of the International WorldSkills group, Australia has been a national leader in benchmarking our skills against the developed and developing nations of the world. Indeed, our participation at international events has been, and is, an important indication of Australia's economy and training ethos throughout the world.

It is through our association with industry, commerce and government, and our youth skill challenges that Australia is ranked very highly on the international skills stage.

We invite the WorldSkills General Assembly to join the WorldSkills Australia family in Melbourne, in May 2006. Let us demonstrate our capacity to provide a memorable and rewarding experience for each of you.

Sincerely



**Bob Puffett AM**  
Official Delegate  
Chairman WorldSkills Australia

**John Shiel**  
Technical Delegate