

## MEDIA RELEASE

22/09/15

### ***Inaugural Industry Breakfast - 'Education and Training; Navigating the new landscape'***

The Illawarra Forum is eagerly looking forward to welcoming delegates and speakers to our inaugural industry breakfast to be held tomorrow at Wollongong Golf Club.

The breakfast will be an opportunity to explore the new education and training landscape in the Illawarra and Shoalhaven after the introduction of Smart and Skilled.

Attendees will hear from leaders from key education and training organisations including:

- David Harris, *Training Services Manager*, State Training Services
- Dianne Murray, *Institute Director*, TAFE Illawarra
- Kerrie Smith, *Training and Operations Manager*, WEA
- Tony Keir, *Regional Manager*, Australian Business Centre, Apprenticeship and Traineeships

CEO of the Illawarra Forum, Nicky Sloan said "Education and training are often important pathways for the future for many of the disadvantaged people our members work with. However, there seems to be some uncertainty or confusion about how Smart and Skilled will impact on opportunities for clients or consumers."

"We have encouraged members and other interested people to join us as we host our first industry breakfast 'Education and Training; Navigating the new landscape'. Delegates will join us and an expert panel for breakfast and an open conversation to learn more about the future of education and training, and the opportunities available." Ms Sloan said

**Time:** 7:30am - 9:00am  
**Date:** Wednesday 23rd September 2015  
**Location:** Wollongong Golf Club,  
Foreshore Brasserie,  
151-161 Corrimal Street, Wollongong

Media welcome from 8:30am.

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### About the Illawarra Forum

The Illawarra Forum is the peak body working for community services and organisations in the Illawarra and the Shoalhaven. It supports community organisations, promotes expertise and innovation in community development, fosters industry development and provides advocacy for social justice. The Illawarra Forum is an independent organisation governed by a committee of management elected annually by the membership.

The Forum represents the non-government community services industry in the Illawarra and Shoalhaven, which consists of approximately 300 organisations. The Illawarra Forum works closely with numerous organisations which provide support to vulnerable people across the region including:

- Social housing providers;
- Homelessness services;
- Home and community care services;
- People with disability;
- Individuals and families with multiple layers of social and financial disadvantage;
- Victims of domestic violence and sexual assault ;
- Youth work programs;
- Community health services, including mental health and drug/alcohol services;
- Community legal centre services; and
- Community development and community capacity building.