

New job course at work

■ Skills shortage targeted

SIMONE Campbell has gone from controlling sandwiches to controlling traffic; it just took six months of unemployment for her to get there.

The Ipswich local has just completed a traffic controlling course through The Salvation Army Employment Plus program – even better, she is guaranteed a job.

Ms Campbell used to manage a Subway restaurant, before quitting last December.

She had a couple of month's holidays before she decided to get a job in the welding industry, which proved harder than thought.

"It was really difficult to get into the welding industry, which is why I have done this course to get some more qualifications," she said.

"I didn't want to get back into hospitality; I was pretty keen on construction but it just took a few months to get a job."

The five-week program, which is designed to specifically address a shortage of traffic controllers, includes a rigorous pre-selection process, a healthy lifestyles program, involved job

CHRIS GARRY

chris.garry@qt.com.au

preparation activities and accredited training.

Ms Campbell, who finished her course on Thursday, said she was not worried about drivers yelling out at her when they passed.

"I'm sure it's going to happen, but I worked in hospitality for a few years so I am used to being abused by customers," she said.

"I'm there to do a job so I have to put up with it."

Ms Campbell is not the only local unemployed person to find a job through the course; in fact all 15 of the program's initial participants are already employed.

TSAEP spokeswoman Kirrilee Trist said participants would finish the course with three important qualifications.

These include a construction blue card, a certificate 1 in resources and infrastructure operations and a traffic control licence.

"The government and a number of local employers recognised that there were skill

shortages within the industry, and we all saw an opportunity to create this program and help unemployed people fill the shortage," Ms Trist said.

"We're confident that all 15 of the participants from the Ipswich area will also be put into jobs."



IN CONTROL: Simone Campbell is a successful participant in the Salvation Army's employment program.

Photo: Sarah Keayes JL0209AC