



Government of **Western Australia**
South West Regional College of TAFE

Media Statement

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CAMERAS AT TAFE CAPTURE STUDENTS' POINT OF VIEW

Spearheading the need to respond appropriately to the training needs of the remote learners, address industry requirements and improve the quality of training and assessment, the South West Regional College of TAFE has successfully implemented the use of point of view cameras in the hairdressing and engineering faculties.

This technology enables lecturers to conduct assessments with the unique benefit of seeing things from the student's perspective through point of view cameras that are attached to safety glasses worn by the apprentices when undertaking practical assessments such as cutting and styling hair or repairing equipment. A battery operated MP4 player allows for sound and a recording is made of the students' actions which can subsequently be played and assessed.

Latest advances in the technology have seen the incorporation of earphones in the frame of the safety glasses which allows for wireless transmission and facilitates assessment in real time. Lecturers at the campus can interact with the students repairing equipment on remote mine sites and use the technology to not only assess but also train the students with the distance separating them constituting no barrier to this process.

Commenting on the advantages of the technology, Guy Truss, Lecturer in the Faculty of Automotive, Metals and Engineering Studies said, "The point of view cameras ensure that assessments can successfully be undertaken in confined spaces which lecturers may not ordinarily be able to see in their entirety were it not for the device attached to the students' safety glasses. In addition to this students can simply snap on the safety glasses and perform the task to be assessed when it occurs in their daily routine without having to make special arrangements to set up an opportunity to do so."

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Explaining the students' response to this new assessment technology lecturers in the Faculty of Hairdressing, Charmaine Hannah and Paula Finucane, said "At first the students found it rather unusual, but with time and continued use, they have become quite accustomed to his method of assessment and have responded to it very positively. Clients in the salon are most accommodating when we seek their permission to include them in assessment videos and are extremely supportive of this initiative which provides assessors with valid assessment feedback on the students' capacity to perform a given task. From the employers' perspective these safety glasses are seen as the catalyst for revolutionising the training and assessment process where technology is used to complement and support a variety of training delivery modes."

An inherent advantage of point of view cameras is that they can be used to assess mature age students seeking recognition of prior learning to expedite the process of gaining a qualification. With possibly many years of experience and high skill levels the point of view camera will immediately capture their expertise and readily demonstrate their competency in performing specific tasks. Another benefit of this method of evaluating a student's skill is that a permanent record of their performance can be archived, referred back to or even re-used to streamline training for others.

The point of view cameras and its application to training and assessment was the brainchild of Geoff Lubic from the Pilbara TAFE who has since made significant enhancements to the technology.

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