

PIPEFITTING: SKILLS DEFICIENCIES IN METAL FABRICATION AND WELDING (PIPEFITTING) IN AUSTRALIA



Karen O'Reilly

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Southland Industries Pipe Fitting Chiller Room project



ISS Institute
Suite 101
685 Burke Road
Camberwell
AUSTRALIA 3124

Telephone

03 9882 0055

Facsimilie

03 9882 9866

Email

issi.ceo@pacific.net.au

Web

www.issinstitute.org

Published by International Specialised Skills Institute, Melbourne.

ISS Institute
101/685 Burke Road
Camberwell 3124
AUSTRALIA

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This report discusses the National ISS Institute Overseas Fellowship study into the trade skills deficiencies of Metal Fabrication and Welding (pipefitting). This study was carried out between December 2005 and December 2006, and the overseas component of the Fellowship was conducted in the USA and Canada during August 2006. Pipefitting is a well-established engineering trade in North America, but virtually unknown here in Australia. Investigations into the trade of Pipefitting have been carried out and conclusions have been drawn. It is recommended that the engineering trade of *Pipefitting* as well as *problem solving and technical innovation* educational studies are introduced into the Australian engineering curriculum in an effort to resolve present trade skills deficiencies and prepare engineering tradespeople for the future innovation economy.

Outline of the Report

Chapter 1 acknowledges all those who have advised and assisted O'Reilly in this research

Chapter 2 provides a background overview to the research

Chapter 3 describes the skills deficiencies in Pipe Metal Fabrication and Welding (pipefitting) in Australia

Chapter 4 outlines the ISS Fellowship overseas program, and provides the findings of research and observations on the training facilities for Pipe Fitters in USA and Canada

Chapter 5 gives the findings on creativity and innovation in USA and Canada.

Chapter 6 proposes recommendations