

Media release

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Technical trainees take to the classroom

Airservices fourth class of future technical officers have begun studying a specialised two-year technical curriculum at TAFE NSW's Riverina Institute at Wagga Wagga.

This year's intake sees 10 trainees working towards a Diploma of Electronics and Communications Engineering and a further seven trainees working towards a Diploma of Electrical Engineering.

Airservices General Manager People and Change, Peter Ward, said that the trainees have this week begun their induction to the organisation, which over the coming months will see them tour Airservices facilities in Melbourne and radar installations at Wagga Wagga, Mt Macedon and Gellibrand Hill.

"Over the course of two years, the trainees will learn about communications, surveillance, navigation aids and data systems," Mr Ward said.

"During the first nine months, they will complete the same curriculum, before splitting into specialised streams to complete their respective diplomas. This trade-specific curriculum and training facility will enable them to build the skills required to maintain Australia's high-tech air traffic control equipment."

The 17 trainees will also have the opportunity to work with cutting-edge equipment and systems as the nation's air navigation service provider continues to roll out an extensive capital expenditure program worth almost \$1 billion over five years.

"This is an ideal opportunity for young people and those with an interest in combining theoretical and practical learning to gain an industry-recognised qualification while learning skills which will be needed to ensure the future of Australia's robust air navigation system," Mr Ward said.

The trainees were selected from more than 371 applicants nationally and have come from all around Australia. This year's diverse intake is made up of school leavers and people looking for a career change, and includes three women.

While they will be based in Wagga Wagga throughout training, field placements at Airservices locations around the country will provide them with vital practical experience working on equipment such as instrument landing systems, radar and other air navigation aids.

The latest intake follows the graduation of the second class of 12 trainees at a ceremony in Wagga Wagga in November last year.

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