

HOLMESGLEN'S FUTURETECH

Futuretech is a pioneering training centre paving the way for the next generation of electrical and electrotechnology professionals.

The North Melbourne-based centre is focused on the future, with innovative programs preparing workers for careers in emerging fields including telecommunications and electrotechnology.

A collaboration between the Electrical Trades Union (ETU) and Holmesglen Institute, Futuretech's success comes from its ability to work with industry to create programs that provide students with the most relevant skills to meet employers' needs.

Futuretech advocates for a renewable and sustainable industry while producing graduates who leave training job-ready.

Since opening in 2016, the \$3.4 million training facility has trained more than 500 students, including 25 pre-apprentices and 29 apprentices. In this time, the centre also retrained 237 employees, many of whom would have lost their jobs without this assistance.

Futuretech case manager Olivia McDougall supports workers launching their electrical careers as well as those at a crossroads in their professional life.

For pre-apprentices completing their initial training, that means helping them gain a foot in the door by matching them to apprenticeships.

Olivia also helps redundant workers and the longer-term unemployed find their way back into the trade or move into different industries.

Through the New Horizons Program, Olivia helps people gain access to job opportunities through a range of services including skills assessment and counselling, resume preparation, job skills training, applications and interview coaching.

"Many of the people I see have never been through the experience of unemployment and are dealing with a range of emotions including feelings of loss and lack of confidence," Olivia explains.

"In the past it was easy for them to step into something new, with many jobs coming via word-of-mouth. These days they need to have up-to-date resumes to get through the recruitment process."

Olivia says she loves helping people realise their potential.

"When people first come in, they can be feeling quite low. Once we talk about what they have to offer and what they can do next, they leave feeling more positive and with a renewed sense of direction," she says.



Futuretech industry program teacher Tony Robins takes a class.

Apprentice student Jayde Moore with Futuretech teacher Paul Curry.



Holmesglen case manager Olivia McDougall offers help to students like Electrotechnology preapprentices Jack Lewis (left) and Matthew Cornish (right).