

Media alert

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Tourism students reap turnaround benefits

It's not just cruise-goers and the Cairns local business community being rewarded by the Pacific Eden homeport operation, but a new generation of tourism workers are beginning to reap the benefits of the turnarounds at the Cairns Cruise Liner Terminal.

Fast becoming known as one of the most efficient ports for turnarounds along the eastern coast, the CCLT is also a training ground for TAFE Queensland North students.

Shipping agent Inter cruises Shoreside and Port Services has employed a mix of 13 students studying Certificate II and III in Travel and Tourism as well as Diploma of Travel and Tourism students to help deliver a smooth service.

Tourism Tropical North Queensland Chief Executive Officer Alex de Waal said: "Cruise ship turnarounds are a busy and exciting environment for aspiring tourism industry professionals to learn the ropes with a variety of roles undertaken."

"These included checking passengers in, baggage handling, and assisting wheelchair passengers in the very tight time frame necessary for passengers to disembark before the new passengers arrive to begin their cruise."

Ports North Chairman Russell Beer has welcomed the initiative adding the students are also gaining great insights into port security, operations and maritime protocols which will put them in good stead as the cruise shipping industry continues to grow in Cairns.

"We have had a terrific cruise season for 2016 and it's not finished yet," he said. "It all begins again in 2017 when we will have a record 60 cruise ships visits throughout the year."

Mr de Waal added that many of these TAFE students were also doing volunteer work at the Cairns and Tropical North Visitor Information Centre to enhance their knowledge of local tourism operators, and one had an application in for full-time work in the cruise ship industry.

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