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OCCUPATIONAL ENGLISH TEST (OET) opens new venue on Sunshine Coast with LEXIS ENGLISH

OET, the English language test for healthcare professionals, will be available on the Sunshine Coast from April 2016; giving local residents the opportunity to sit the test locally. The Sunshine Coast test venue will be managed by Lexis English, through their LEXIS TESOL TRAINING CENTRES (LTTC) brand.

OET (Occupational English Test) is an Australian-developed English language test which assesses language communication skills of healthcare professionals. It provides assessment of all four language skills – listening, reading, writing and speaking – through test material designed to reflect real healthcare scenarios.

With the rapid expansion in the Sunshine Coast area of aged care facilities, and in anticipation of substantially increased local healthcare-related employment opportunities with the opening of the Sunshine Coast University Hospital later this year, this new OET venue will assist employers in sourcing skilled workers from the local area. Queensland Health has reported that more than 3,500 staff will work in the new hospital when it opens in 2016, and about 6,000 staff will be required by 2021. This will include doctors, nurses and allied health professionals. To meet its requirements, Sunshine Coast Hospital and Health Service will employ 2,500 new staff by 2016, growing to a total of 5,000 new staff by 2021 (<https://www.health.qld.gov.au/scuhospital/workforce-recruitment.asp>)

Headquartered on the Sunshine Coast, Lexis English is one of Australia's leading English language teaching organisations, with campuses around Australia, Korea and Japan. Lexis trains more than 6,000 students from in excess of 70 countries in English language and exam preparation courses each year. Lexis employs more than 200 staff at locations in Australia and internationally, making it one of the Sunshine Coast's leading companies.

Lindsay Planck, Administration Manager, LTTC, said Lexis is very pleased to be able to provide a high level testing service on the Sunshine Coast. **(Cont/)**

“Despite the explosive growth that the OET has seen in the last few years, there are no test venues in Queensland operating anywhere North of Brisbane, so we are pleased to meet this need. We have already received enquiries from as far afield as Townsville, and we anticipate that demand will grow as the new hospital approaches its opening date”.

“Lexis will not only provide testing services for the OET exam, but will also soon announce preparation programs to assist students in developing their language skills prior to the testing date. We really hope to be able to provide Sunshine Coast residents from a non-English speaking background with the support they need to find work in this rapidly-growing industry on the Coast”, Ms Planck said.

OET CEO, Sujata Stead, said Lexis will make a huge contribution to the healthcare sector in the Sunshine Coast.

“OET candidates will have an excellent experience with Lexis, both in preparing for OET, and on test day. We commend Lexis for their passion for meeting the needs of the community through empowering healthcare professionals to have the level of English communication skills required for safe and effective care”.

“We also look forward to working with Lexis Korea, to extend the OET offering to healthcare professionals in South Korea for the first time” Ms Stead said.

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About OET

OET is an international English language test that assesses the language communication skills of healthcare professionals who seek to register and practise in an English-speaking environment. It is taken by healthcare professionals wanting to practice in Australia, New Zealand and Singapore and results are accepted by health regulatory boards and councils, and the Australian Department of Immigration and Border Protection for various visa categories. OET is available in over 70 venues in 30 countries. It is owned by Cambridge Boxhill Language Assessment, a venture between Cambridge English and Box Hill Institute, Australia. For more information visit

<http://www.occupationalenglishtest.org>

For further information contact:

Janeen Gardiner

Marketing Manager

OET

Tel: + 61 3 8656 4000

Mob: 0466 902 562

Email: janeen.gardiner@oet.com.au

Aimee Broad

Marketing Director

Lexis

Tel: + 61 7 5447 4448

Skype: [lexis_aimeebroad](https://www.skype.com/people/lexis_aimeebroad)

Email: abroad@lexisenglish.com