

Technology Technicians Survey Collation

Type of school:

Government 43	Metropolitan	7-12 - 33
Independent 7	Regional	7-10 - 3
Catholic 5		P-12 - 6
		Senior School – 8
		5 – 12 – 1
		9 – 12 - 1

Does your school employ a technician to assist in the Technology area?

Yes - **20**

No - **35**

I am in the process of requesting one.

Does your school employ technicians or assistants in other curriculum areas?

Food 50	Science 50	Sport 10	Literacy 1	Ceramics 1
Library 2	Photography 1	PA for Principal 1	Wood/Metal 1	Computers 2
Art 2	Lote 1	Vis Com 1	Art & Design 1	

Sport use coaches or outside facilities to organise some events in self defence, lawn bowls etc.

The Lote department seems to have an assistant – seems like they are from another country – they come to the school for short periods ie. 1-2 terms and are native speakers in the subject. One at a time.

Schools that don't have a technician:

Have you asked for a technology technician and been refused?

Yes **28**

No **16**

What reasons were given for refusal?

No/insufficient funds **8**

Cost **3**

Several years ago we asked and were told not enough work and no funding available for this.

I don't know of any government school who have a technician for Technology – have often thought how wonderful it would be!

Cost. Not necessary. It is part of the job to prepare materials.

Limited funding available to create a position for a technician.

Request was more of a discussion where the Principal indicated funding was not available. Many years ago food had two technicians, now currently have only one. The facilities management and contractor staffing has grown extensively over the last few years.

Inferred that present DT teachers not organised, because we are offering pracs in DT classes now that, previously filler teachers taking DT classes.

Costs too much. You can do without. You have enough time.

School is too small. I should be able to do everything.

Time/Money. Finding a suitable person

Budget. No precedence.

No budget. Have never had one so why do we need one now?

No budget. Never had one.

My KLA at the time said that the school would not employ another technician.

Finances and availability of technicians.

I don't require a technician however I would want more time to do prep work.

It did not occur to me that I could make such a request, new teacher, new school, new subject, unsure of my rights. Despite knowing how much it could help!

Has your school ever employed a technician?

Yes **13**

No **28**

If yes, when and for what time fraction?

.2 – 4 .5 – 2 1.0 - 4 .4 - 2 .6 – 4
.7 – 1 3 hrs/wk 1 1 ½ - 2 hrs/wk 2 0.1 - 1

22 years ago, don't know the time fraction.

In the past the school has employed two technicians over the past 5 years for 2 days a week.

20 years ago, don't know the time fraction.

In 2005, 9 months @ 3 hours/week

Full time trades assistant more than 20 years ago.

Why are they no longer employed?

Don't know

They left to pursue other interests or employment. The pay for the position makes it difficult to find anyone prepared to work for that amount.

Their role has changed to ground maintenance.

Employed on part time basis only as required.

Finances

Cost. Knowledge nation. Bias to Uni studies.

Schools that do have a technician

What time fraction does your technician work in your faculty?

Full time **2**

2 days

Both are 0.6

8 hours/week

Two student technicians 1.5 – 2 hours/week for each.

½ day/week

3 days/week

Is your technician shared with other faculties within the school, or other schools?

Yes **7**

No **10**

My tech is employed full time – 3 days she is with me, 2 days with art dept.

In what technology areas does your assistant work?

Wood – 11	Metal – 7	Systems – 3	Food – 1	Textiles – 4
Plastics – 2	Silversmithing – 1	Ceramics – 1	D&T – 1	Materials – 1
Electronics – 1	Jewellery – 1	Photography – 1		

Where does the funding come from to pay for your assistant?

Out of the Technology faculty budget
Out of the general school staffing budget **17**
Other?

Do you have a written job description for your technician?

Yes **14**
No **8**

Would you be willing to provide a copy of this to DATTA Vic.?

Yes **6**
No **3**

What qualifications or background does your technician have?

Fitter & turner and now career change to tech teacher.
Background in metal/plastics electronics/multi skilled/able to do regular maintenance on all plant and hand tools.
Timber and metal trades qualifications
Tradesman 2
Trade Certificate
Former tech teacher
None
Professional furniture maker. DipEd and Fine woodworking course.
It's me! And I have no formal woodwork training just a Bed and a BA
She is a fashion student at RMIT
Diploma – Furniture Technology. Electrical Safety Tester's Licence, currently studying Bed TAS.
Needs to be enrolled in studio arts photography.
Year 12 ex student DT studying Product Design at RMIT.
Sheet metal worker.
3 year Diploma of Metal Design/jewellery at Monash (Caulfield)

What tasks does your technician carry out?

prepares materials for classes **18**
This is mostly done by the teachers taking senior classes. Our assistant or other staff would help if this was necessary. They mostly work well as a team.
Mixes up dyes, cuts fabrics and some photocopying

machines materials for senior students according to their cutting list and production plan. **12**

Describe

Advanced cutting, machining as per requirements

carries out basic maintenance on tools and machinery **14**
carries out advanced maintenance on tools and machinery **9**
assists in purchasing and ordering materials and equipment **12**
assists in carrying out risk assessments of your school's technology facility **12**
assists in maintaining the schools OH&S records (including the collection of MSDS documents) **9**
cleans and organises the technology storage area and classrooms **16**
carries out building projects for the technology area **8**
carries out building projects for the school **5**
helps out with more general school maintenance **10**

other?

Our technician assists our technology staff with most of the ticked tasks as he also teaches. Sharpening hand tools, machining timber, helps with improving storage/racking in technology area/electrical inspection and tagging program for all electrical equipment in the technology and arts areas annually.

I take tools/equipment off campus for repair and lug gas bottles off to be filled.

Aids DT classroom teachers.

Helps in the classroom situation, assisting students in class with basic project work, helps prepare curriculum documents, helps with IT tasks ie. prepare powerpoints, art show invitation layouts, school magazine technology page, sets up the art/technology show – helps take that down, helps out when Artist in School programs run, mailing list for art show. Lately there has been an expectation at the school that when we have sports day, swimming day etc. they never used to come, they stayed at work and did work but now they are being required to attend these days and take on very minor roles.

Has your school funded, or intends to fund your technician to attend the DEECD 'Safe Use of Machinery' courses?

Yes - 6

No - 12

Do you think this should be required of technology technicians?

Yes - 14

No - 5

Please explain

If they use the machines they are exposed to the same risks as teaching staff and should set an example to the students also.

Many teachers from art and outside our main area of technology think they can teach wood/metal and don't know or realize the dangers and skills required to use machinery or teach the use of tools and equipment to students. I did a minimum of 8 years with a trade certificate before I could apply for this job. Not walk in from being and English with little or NO experience and think I can teach.

Our technician is also teaching .8 and has come to the school via the career change program. The school funded Safe Use of Machinery courses for all of our Design and Technology Wood staff back in 2006 and we have been waiting 5 months for DEECD to confirm RPL for all these staff. Our Metal staff still needs to do the courses. All staff using the plant machinery and portable hand tools must be trained in its safe use.

Our previous technicians were not teaching and were employed for two days / .4 or I believe as much as .6

If they are required to operate machinery to prepare material.

They are using the same equipment as teachers.

Not always required if fully qualified ie. completed woodworking course or worked in industry that already covers risk management.

The principal made all of us D&T teachers do the SUOM course!

It depends on machinery in the area – we have over lockers and sewing machines.

Our technician is more qualified than many DT teachers.

If fulltime or substantial load. Protection of technician. Ensure safe practices.

If teachers are required to then the technicians, who do more machining than teachers do, it makes sense they are trained.

As he maintains our machinery, he needs this info.

Do you think there should be more defined DEECD guidelines for the employment, job description and training of technology technicians?

Yes 20

No 5

Please explain

As above, training in tool sharpening ie. planes and chisels. Basic machine maintenance and tagging and testing.

We are in the process of applying for additional time for technical support.

It is difficult for tech dept to get technicians and usually requires consistent hassling. Start putting measures in and it becomes too defined and difficult to find someone. The starting pay is embarrassing to say the least but once they are in place it's easier to fight for the position and pay rises.

This would encourage and guide schools to employ the most suitable technicians.

I prefer to train the textiles technician and the specific needs of the College.

The curriculum and equipment varies widely from school to school, as does the requirements of the technicians.

They need to be very clear about what the school can ask of them. What is fair. I feel if you have a good technician with skills a lot is asked of them.

Is there anything else you would like to comment on, or issues of concern you have about this area?

A prorata approach to the number of classes or teaching staff and set role description Science dept. Have tech set up and disassemble pracs. We are expected to set up machines, tools and equipment in a safe and timely way but we often teach in other rooms or as I do graphics in another building. So time constraints for rest period are limited. This puts pressure on the proper set up and organization of the practical room.

Time is not allocated for teachers to do all of the extra duties that are required in the technology area.

This is necessary to get a better approach to our subject and to maintain the integrity and skills etc.

Otherwise our subject may not exist much further down the track. Look at the loss of Technical schools and the wonderful teachers and student opportunities we have lost already.

Staff workload especially with the additional and necessary push for improved OHS compliance and record keeping over the last 6 years of so. Initially no formal support/time was available at school level when Noel Arnold was the preferred reference point for the department and now Marsh are doing audits and providing replacement SWP signage on a standardised template. It is a shame this level of support was not available initially. Managing the OHS requirements for assessment of dangerous and hazardous goods, MSDS record keeping (ongoing), manual handling, risk assessments (ongoing) and SWP signage, plant maintenance schedules and associated record keeping (ongoing) was a massive task and one that should have attracted additional training and support in terms of time for the technology staff involved. The ongoing nature of many of these school level tasks has never been formally supported with additional technology funding or technical support from our employer.

When are specific Technology Teacher Training courses for going to be given higher priority.

Career change program and employment of trainees seems to be a stop gap measure. We need

better support in schools for managing the teaching rounds and experiences given to training teachers via these programs.

At the moment anyone with a bit of knowledge can get a job as a technician. There needs to be standards set.

Keep it school based.

I find it shocking that techs were not put into the safety training straight away. This survey is about 2 years late.

I have trouble keeping up with the requirements of this job and worry about safety in this respect and in respect of the numbers of active students that I have to oversee in the workshops.

Teachers who do not have technician support should by all rights be given time allowance to do the extra work that is required to effectively maintain and safely run technology courses.

The Ed. Dept should make technicians mandatory in all D&T/Art areas and fund them at that level not at school level.

Although we don't have a Tech technician it would be great to have guidelines in place – job description, training etc.

The OH&S requirements pertinent to DT need to be communicated more effectively.

Tech teachers are NOT qualified to do maintenance. We do because no one else will. I'm ex NZ. All NZ schools have tech technician about 0.3 FTE.

Two adults needed in workshop for safety so technician would be needed.

If your school employs a technician in Science, Food or even the library the Technology Dept should have a technician. Teachers cannot cope with all the cutting of material needed for students designing individual projects. Otherwise they will always be in the machine room cutting material and not supervising their class.

All schools should have one. It is too much responsibility for a classroom teacher to service machines, prepare all materials and do all the other things we are expected to do.

All workshops should have to have someone qualified to help!

I could not do my job without this support! I know that I am very lucky – it distresses me that many schools do not offer their staff this support. There is so much that is expected of technology teachers not included in other teaching roles that technical support staff is essential! DATTA needs to address principals about this – how about at principals' conferences?

At Thomas Carr College in Tarneit, we have a very supportive School Principal/Committee that has provided within the technology department and other departments at the school a number of technicians. Tech – Textiles 3 days, Tech – Wood 2 days, Tech – Food full time, Art Dept full time, Sport/PE part time, Lote part time, Science has one but I don't know how often she is employed.

The main reason we were able to negotiate so many technicians/support staff is because our class sizes were/are so large. Class sizes can be up to 28 students in a class. This number is above our school policy so we were able to negotiate technicians. Class sizes have dropped back since in the last couple of years to 26, but fortunately we have not had to re negotiate. A new principal and VP seem to have accepted the status quo. I have answered the survey for my technician – textiles as I know about her situation. I can't comment on the other technicians in our school.

What you do need to add to your information template is the pay rate. Or at least where to find the pay rate for technicians. My tech has asked me to check her pay rate but I don't know where to look or under what award she is covered. That information would also be very helpful.