

Working to rule



Deb Whittington

By DENICE RICE

IF you're a baby boomer who groans at the thought of working past 60, Deb Whittington says it could just be the way you're looking at it.

Ms Whittington, chair of a TAFEWA curriculum advisory group, said baby boomers needed to remember that work didn't need to be the same old grind.

"Working past 60 can, for many people, mean pursuing their passions and interests, rather than doing the same job they've done all their lives," she said. "We've been indoctrinated to believe we need to retire at 60.

"When I was a little girl, a 60-year-old woman was someone who had a blue rinse. This isn't true any more. We don't

need to retire because we're infirm."

Ms Whittington said many baby boomers at 60 were free of a mortgage burden and had the financial freedom to work at something for enjoyment rather than financial necessity.

It was these passions that employers would need to capture if they were to keep baby boomers in the workplace in the face of biting skills and labour shortages.

While Generation Y was touted as the techno-savvy generation, in many cases it

was the baby boomers who initiated the technology.

Baby boomers had skills that need to be passed on in the workplace.

"It's time we looked at doing some real aptitude testing for baby boomers and start trying to marry their passions with their skills as a means of keeping them in the workplace," she said.

Ms Whittington will be a speaker at the next Australasian Management Centre Innovation Forum at the Perth Convention Exhibition Centre on June 12. The theme will be Ageing Workplace Population Strategies — the Extinction of the Baby Boomer.

For inquiries, contact AMC on 1300 466 688. Tickets are \$110 each, or \$600 for tables of six, and are available online at www.amcinnovation.com.

