

Job hunters seek the edge to make an impression

Kathleen Donaghey

THE Gold Coast employment market is so tight job-seekers are being advised to get an 'edge' over rivals.

For the 2300 who attended yesterday's Jobs-Matching Expo that meant learning how to dress, write a stand-out resume and wow potential bosses in an interview.

The expo, run by Gold Coast City Council, drew a record crowd, some of them made redundant, while others were venturing into new careers.

Roaming the 26 stalls, jobseekers found out how to land a gig as

SpongeBob Squarepants at Dreamworld or a job with the bomb squad.

Sarina Russo business development officer Gillian Quinn said the jobs market was so tight that employers were being very choosy.

"Employers are looking for a lot more and they can pick and choose. They're looking for people with excellent skills," she said.

Ms Quinn said many applicants looked the same on 'on paper' so it was vital to be noticed.

Image consultant Prue Bartels said it was important to look your best.

She advised women not to show cleavage and to wear neutral prints

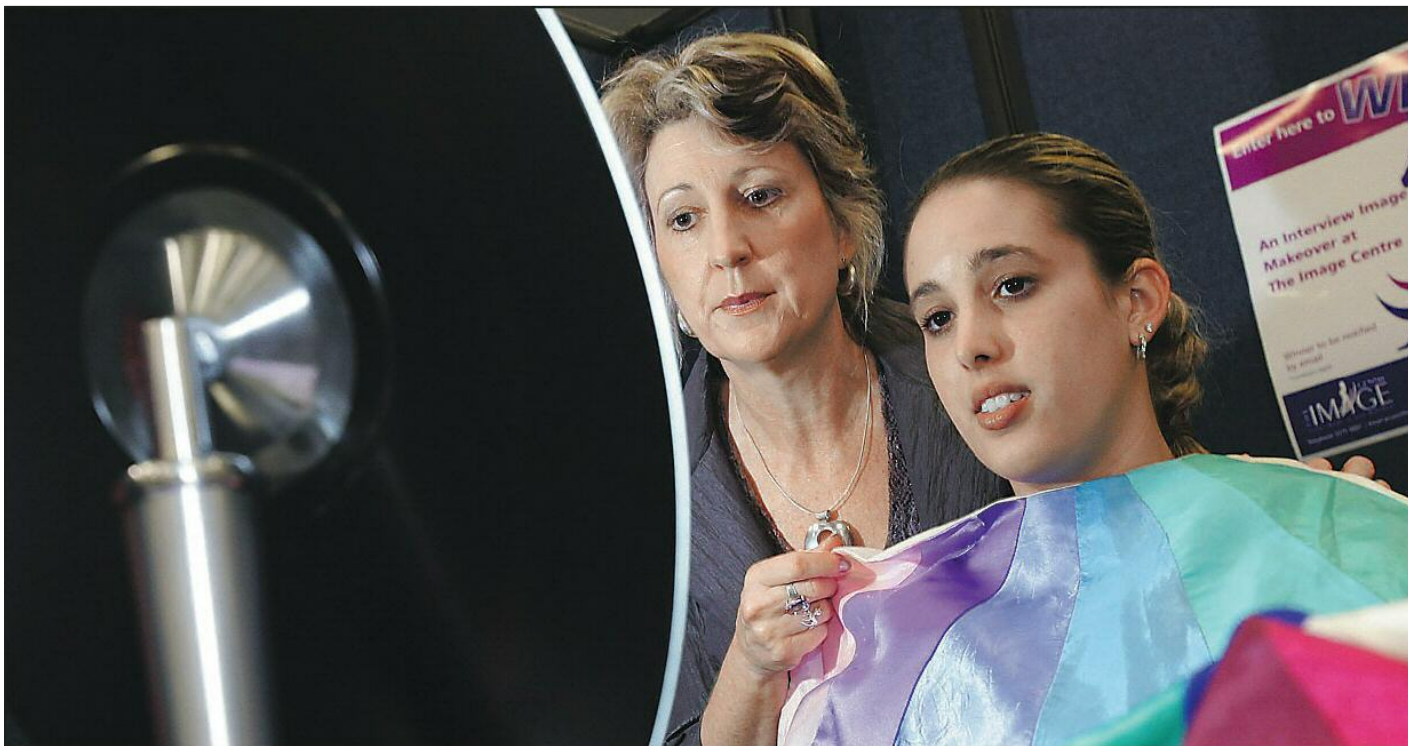
and non-flashy jewellery.

She advised men to take a trip to the barber.

Senior Constable Simone Mayer, a police recruitment officer, said the service had been flooded with applicants as people sought the security of a public service job.

But only the top 88 achievers were selected at each intake.

She said a career path to the bomb squad required three months at the academy and then up to five years on general duties before being able to specialise.



Karla Hallinan receives tips from image consultant Prue Bartels on colours that suit her