

Newsletter



ACT BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY
**TRAINING FUND
AUTHORITY**

Training Fund Authority supports local school and college students do the rounds in the ACT Construction Industry

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L-R, Gary Guy (Chief Executive Officer, Training Fund Authority) Warren Ahrens (Principle, PBS Building Company) Mick Doyle (Manager, Student to Industry Program) Jerry Howard (Deputy Executive Director, Master Builders Association of the ACT).

In late 2004, a partnership arrangement between PBS Building Company, Master Builders Association of the ACT and the Student to Industry Program created an innovative School-Based New Apprentice (SNAP) program in General Construction Certificate II for 13 ACT school / college students.

Due to the difficulty of attracting school leavers into the industry, sub-contractors for PBS Building made a commitment to provide local school / college students with hands-on training and experience. Each student undertaking the SNAP program is offered a number of rotations through trade areas within the construction industry. This gives students the opportunity to experience different trade areas that they may not have previously considered as a possible career choice.

Student to Industry Program's Manager, Mr Mick Doyle, said the majority of students choose carpentry as their preferred trade without experiencing other skill areas where they may excel. This program will create an environment whereby we can match their aspirations with their skills and interest.

"Students are provided with a wide range of experiences with employers and trade areas through the rotation system. Trades include: carpentry, cabinet making, painting & decorating, plumbing, tiling, bricklaying, plastering, concreting, project management and electrical," Mr Doyle said.

"To achieve the rotation and provide students with a range of trade skills, MBA Group Training is the principal employer and coordinates the rotation of students. MBA Group Training also provides the students their off-the-job training one evening per week at its Skills Centre in Fyshwick, all of which can count towards the students Year 12 Certificate. Students are paid on-the-job one day per week," Mr Grant Daly, Learning and Development Manager, MBA Group Training said.

"The **Training Fund Authority** is encouraged by the potential of the rotation model and recognise the advantages to industry and the additional pastoral care SNAPs are provided," said Mr Gary Guy who, in support of the program, presented a \$6,000 cheque to MBA Group Training to assist in the structured training of the students.

Mr Guy said evidence through a number of reports carried out indicates those students who have obtained experience or a qualification prior to undertaking an apprenticeship in the construction industry are more likely to successfully complete their training. He sees this initiative as an investment in the youth of today and the ACT construction industry.

"For PBS Building it has opened up a whole new avenue for the long term sustainability of the company. We are a company that started locally and are expanding up the eastern seaboard. We believe that this initiative with the Student to Industry Program and MBA Group Training will enable our company and our sub-contractors to grow our workforce and what better way than through our own youth," said Mr Ian Carter, PBS Building Company.

MBA's Deputy Executive Director, Mr Jerry Howard, said since the inception of the SNAP rotation program, many Canberra builders have joined the program including: Classic Construction, Manteena and Construction Control to name a few. Some of the trade specialists include Moraschi Tilers and Chadwick Industries.

"Thanks to their commitment and many other ACT businesses we now have 29 students in their second year and a further 18 students recently commenced their 1st year of training."

An example of the early success of the program is demonstrated by more than half of the students in their second year of training being offered an apprenticeship with one of their host employers. Several others have ongoing offers for paid work during their holidays." Mr Howard said.



Training Fund Authority - 2007 Training Plan

The Training Fund Authority is in the process of finalising the **2007 Annual Training Plan**.

The **Training Fund Authority** would appreciate any feedback or comments from industry stakeholders on training issues or any others issues.

If you can assist, please contact Colin McJannett on 6262 5630 or email colin@trainingfund.com.au.

ACT Residential Building Approvals - February 2006

There were 194 residential approvals in the ACT in February 2006, up 7.8% on January. Nationally approvals were largely unchanged.

For the year ending February 2006, approvals in the ACT were up 0.5%, Nationally, year-on-year approvals were down 6.5%.

State / Territory Comparisons - Trend

In February 2006, the jurisdictions recording the largest rises in building approvals were the ACT (up 7.8%) and South Australia (up 2.1%). The jurisdiction recording the largest fall was the Northern Territory (down 10.8%).

For the year ending February 2006, the only jurisdictions to record a rise in approvals were Western Australia (up 7.9%) and the ACT (up 0.5%). All other jurisdictions recorded falls, with the largest by New South Wales (down 18.4%) followed by Tasmania (down 10.7%).

Source: ABS based upon building permits issued by the appropriate certifying authorities.

Attention Employers

If you are an employer in the ACT building and construction industry, you would be aware of significant skill shortages across a wide range of sectors including the following nominated trades:

Painting & Decorating Horticulture (Turf) Horticulture (Landscaping)

To encourage and assist employers and host employers to employ apprentices in the above trades, the Training Fund Authority will provide eligible employers a \$5,000 training incentive who employ a 1st year apprentice in 2006 under an ACT Contract of Training in the nominated trades.

Training Incentive payments will be in two instalments:

- **\$2,000** when your apprentice completes the first 3 months of their apprenticeship
- **\$3,000** when your apprentice completes the first 12 months of their apprenticeship

Note: Training Incentives are equally divided between ACT Group Training Organisations and their host employers on a pro-rata basis.

Australian Technical Colleges - update

Four more Australian Technical Colleges have been announced by the Australian Government, bringing the number of colleges nationwide to 21 out of 25.

The colleges will be located in the Gosford, Whyalla, Port Augusta, Sunshine and Warrnambool regions.

The Australian Technical College on the Central Coast of New South Wales (**Gosford**) is expected to start operating on a small scale in 2007 and build up to a total enrolment of 300 by 2009. The college will enable students to undertake their schooling in Years 11 and 12 and start trade training in engineering, construction, electrotechnology, automotive or commercial cookery trades. Suitable sites are being explored within the region as possible locations for the college.

Starting in February 2007, the Australian Technical College - **Whyalla and Port Augusta** in South Australia will operate as a multi-campus independent senior secondary college. The college will cover the Spencer Gulf and outback region through a principal site at Port Augusta and satellite campuses in Whyalla and Port Pirie, which will all begin in 2007. Roxby Downs and Port Lincoln campuses will come into operation in future years.

The college will broker, coordinate and case manage students' education and training programs across state and non-government schools. Students will be able to undertake trade training at the certificate III level and paid work through school-based New Apprenticeships in metals and engineering, automotive, electrotechnology, building and construction and commercial cookery.

Australian Technical College - **Sunshine** in Victoria is expected to commence at the start of the 2007 school year. A consortium including Sunshine College, Victoria University and Kangan Batman Institute of TAFE will establish the college. It is expected that it will be located at a Sunshine College campus, subject to contract negotiations with the Australian Government.

Brauer College, in partnership with Baimbridge College, Hamilton will establish and operate an Australian Technical College in the **Warrnambool** region in Victoria, with other schools in the region able to participate in the college. It will offer trade training in building trades in the first year, with engineering and automotive offered in subsequent years. Each of the students will be assigned a mentor and have access to extensive student welfare programs, whether they are based at the main campus or in their own schools.

Technical Colleges in Dubbo, **Queanbeyan**, Lismore, Ballina, and Pilbara regions are still to be announced.

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