



## Girls Only Try-a-Trade

- ⇒ Want to work outdoors?
- ⇒ Do you like being physically active?
- ⇒ Do you love a challenge?
- ⇒ Do you like solving problems?
- ⇒ Are you practical?
- ⇒ Do you like to make things?



For the first time the Canberra Institute of Technology is offering a girls only try-a-trade and trade taster program in 2009.

Over the years CIT have trained some very successful tradeswomen, including the 2008 ACT and National Apprentice of the Year, Rachael Keiley. CIT would like to give more women the opportunity to access these potentially lucrative careers.

Key messages being promoted are that "A trade can give you the opportunity to be your own boss, engage in problem solving and some trades allow you to explore your creativity".

The try-a-trade day will be held on 7 May at CIT Fyshwick Campus where participants will have the opportunity to experience a wide range of trades including plumbing, electrical, carpentry, refrigeration and air-conditioning, automotive, vehicle painting, tiling, metal fabrication, fitting and machining, painting and decorating, plastering and horticulture.

There will also be the opportunity to talk with qualified tradeswomen. The try-a-day day will be followed up by three trade taster programs on 10, 17, 24 September.



These programs will provide participants with the opportunity to experience real projects in a range of trades and students will then have the option to enrol in a 40 hour pre-vocational program in their area of interest

For further information, contact the Canberra Institute of Technology, Fyshwick Student Services Hub ☎ 02 6207 3800 or email

shirley.menegazzo@cit.act.edu.au

## Training Fund Authority Industry Breakfast

The Training Fund Authority will host its 4th annual industry breakfast on 21 May at the Federal Golf Club.

Mr Gary Guy, Executive Director, Training Fund Authority will provide a presentation of the services and programs the Training Fund Authority provides, including the current financial incentives available to eligible employers under the Training Fund Authority's 2009 Skill Shortage program.

The guest speaker for the event is Steven Bradbury, Australia's first ever gold medal winner in the Winter Olympics. His amazing win immediately entered him into Aussie folklore. The phrase, "He's done a Bradbury", has become a catchcry to recognise those who triumph over seemingly impossible odds.

Details of the breakfast are as follows:

**Date:** 21 May 2009  
**Venue:** Federal Golf Club  
**Time:** 7:15 – 9:00

If you are interested in attending the breakfast please RSVP to Ray Stowers at the Training Fund Authority ☎ 6262 5630 ✉ [rstowers@trainingfund.com.au](mailto:rstowers@trainingfund.com.au)

## 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. To address this issue, the Training Fund Authority is providing financial incentives to employers of apprentices in the following trades:

Certificate III in Solid Plastering  
Certificate III in Wall and Ceiling Lining (Plasterboard)  
Certificate III in Wall and Floor Tiling  
Certificate III in Roof Tiling  
Certificate III in Furniture Making (Cabinet Making)

### Financial benefits for employers

The objective of providing incentives is to develop a more skilled workforce and to increase the employment and training opportunities for Australian Apprentices in the ACT.

The ACT Building and Construction Industry Training Fund Authority is providing the following funding for employers in 2009:

### Certificate III Programs above attract up to \$4,000

- \$2,000 three months after the commencement date of the apprenticeship
- \$2,000 on completion of the first 12 months of the apprenticeship

Additional funding may also be available for Indigenous Australians, women in a non-traditional vocation and a person with a disability.

**Note:** Where the employer is a Group Training Organisation (GTO), the Training Fund Authority incentives are equally divided between the GTO and the host employer. Applicable to first year Australian Apprentices commencing in 2009 under an ACT contract of training.

## Work Starts on Multimillion Dollar Airport Upgrade

Work on a new terminal and car park at the Canberra Airport started on 8 April signalling a strong vote of confidence in the ACT's future business and tourism potential, Chief Minister and Minister for Business and Economic Development Jon Stanhope said.

The Southern Concourse Terminal will increase the airport's check-in counters from 17 to 44, triple the baggage capacity and quadruple the airline club lounge area. It will be completed by mid next year and located adjacent to the Virgin Terminal. Work on a second terminal is expected to start in late 2010.

"Designed to reduce carbon emissions by 75 percent, the new Southern Concourse Terminal will reinvigorate the aerial gateway into the ACT and ensure Canberra remains an attractive place for business investment and tourism well into the future.

"Passengers will benefit from more check-in counters, a bigger airport lounge and increased baggage capacity. The new enclosed taxi rank and two-storey drop-off facility will also ease some of the current arrival and departure strains at the airport.

"The new terminal is part of a \$350 million infrastructure investment by the Canberra Airport that will deliver a long-term boost to the ACT's economy and create up to 1350 jobs for our region.

"The ACT Government will continue to work closely with the Canberra Airport and Federal Government to ease traffic congestion in and around the expanding airport precinct through the jointly funded \$65 million airport roads upgrade," Mr Stanhope said.

Source: Jon Stanhope, MLA, Media Release



### 2009 Master Builders Group Training Apprentice & Cadet Awards

On the 17 April, Master Builders Group Training held their annual Apprentice and Cadet Awards which the Training Fund Authority was a major sponsor.

The awards recognise the outstanding achievements, knowledge and skills of Master Builders Group Apprentices and Cadets.

The awards also recognise the valuable contribution of host employers within the residential and commercial sectors.

#### Winners of the major awards were:

|                       |                                    |
|-----------------------|------------------------------------|
| Matthew Meisel-Dennis | Australian School Based Apprentice |
| Edward Collins        | Cadet                              |
| Matthew Power         | Apprentice of the Year             |
| Geoff Rees            | Residential Host Employer          |
| Brett Lentfer         | Commercial Host Employer           |

## Residential Building Approvals - January 2009

### RESIDENTIAL APPROVALS DOWN IN JANUARY

In trend terms, the number of residential building approvals in the ACT in January 2009 was 144, down 6.9% from the previous month. The number of approvals was lower than the five-year monthly average for the ACT (171). Year on year to January 2009 the number of approvals rose 12.9%, in original terms.

Nationally, the trend in residential building approvals fell by 4.3% to 9,303 in January 2009. Year on year to January 2009 the number of approvals in original terms was down 11.6%.

The trend estimate of 144 residential approvals in the ACT for January 2009 was lower than the ACT's five-year monthly average number of approvals (171). The Trend in monthly residential approvals in the ACT increased consecutively from February to July 2008, but have been falling over the last six months. The national trend has been falling since December 2007.

A range of factors should support growth in residential building approvals in 2008-09. These include the Government's Affordable Housing Action Plan, combined with the residential land release of 3,400 blocks in 2007-08 and 4,200 blocks planned for 2008-09, recent interest rate cuts (totalling 4 percentage points since September), and the tripling of the First Home Owner Grant for the purchase of newly constructed homes.

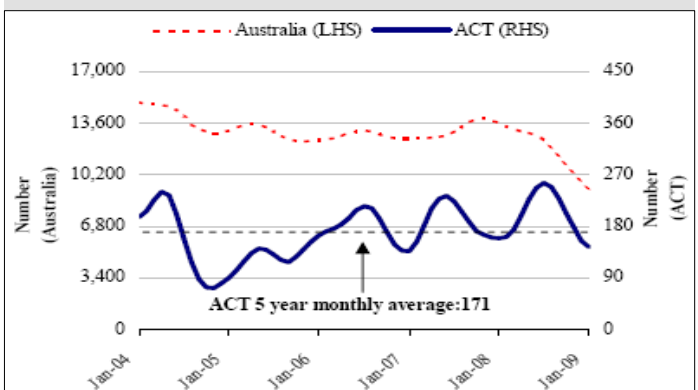
#### State/Territory Comparisons

During January 2009, trend residential building approvals fell in all jurisdictions, except in the Northern Territory (up 1.5%). Queensland recorded the largest decrease (down 7.8%), followed by the ACT (down 6.9%). The smallest decrease in residential building approvals was recorded in Victoria (down 1.7%).

For year on year to January 2009, the ACT recorded the largest increase in residential building approvals (up 12.9% in original terms), followed by South Australia (up 7.1%). The Northern Territory recorded the largest fall down 33%), followed by Queensland (down 25.1%).

#### Definition

ABS estimates of building approvals are based on building permits issued by the appropriate certifying authorities.



Source: ACT Department of Treasury, Economics Branch

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