

Newsletter

Issue No 46 | August 2011



ACT BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY
TRAINING FUND
AUTHORITY



2011 CITC Graduation Apprenticeship and Encouragement Industry Awards

The ACT Building and Construction Industry Training Fund Authority being a Gold Sponsor of the CITC's "2011 CITC Graduating Apprenticeship and Industry Encouragement Awards" would like to congratulate the CITC for hosting the ninth annual industry awards. The

awards recognise the outstanding performance and achievements of apprentices and cadets in the ACT building and construction industry.

With over 400 industry stakeholders, employers, apprentices and their families in attendance, the Minister Mr Andrew Barr, MLA, and other industry representatives presented 37 awards to apprentices and cadets.

Congratulations to Michelle Tifan, a third year electrical apprentice with ActewAGL for winning the Outstanding Apprentice Award. Apart from the top award, Michelle also won the Outstanding Female in a Non-traditional Trade and Outstanding Systems Electrician Awards.

Michelle previously completed a Bachelor of Science with honours from the Australian National University and worked in the public service.

With a strong desire to complete a trade, Michelle conducted extensive research into which trade best suited the knowledge and skills achieved through her degree and selected the electrical trade.

Michelle has also been recognised by receiving several awards from her training provider, the Canberra Institute of Technology. Michelle actively encourages other women to consider an apprenticeship in a non-traditional trade.

Gary Guy CEO, Training Fund Authority, presented the Outstanding Plumber Award to Kyle Blundell who is employed by MB Group Training and hosted by A Murray and Sons.

Photo: Michelle Tifan winner of the Outstanding Apprentice Award at the CITC annual industry awards. Photo courtesy of Hotshot Photography.



Majura Parkway to go ahead

The Federal Government has announced it will provide \$144 million towards the cost of the Majura Parkway, matching the ACT Government's contribution for the major roadway dollar-for-dollar.

The Majura Parkway project will create an 11.5 kilometre long duplication road with seven bridges and three interchanges at the intersections with Fairbairn Avenue, Federal Highway and Monaro Highway.

Construction of the long-awaited \$288 million project will commence next year and is expected to be completed by 2016. The project will replace the existing Majura Road as the freight bypass around the centre of Canberra.

The contract for the first stage of works will be let in mid-2012.

"Recommended by Infrastructure Australia and set to be built with monies from our Building Australia Fund, the Majura Parkway will make it easier for Canberrans to get around their city as well as taking trucks off local streets", Infrastructure Minister Tony Albanese said.

The ACT Chief Minister Katy Gallagher, said the Majura Parkway will see increased accessibility for motorists from Canberra's north into the city and southern suburbs, as well as an improved distribution of freight traffic.

Despite Infrastructure Australia suggesting the project be tolled, both the ACT and Federal Governments have ruled out a toll.

Source: *Building News - Magazine of the MBA*

2011 HIA-CSR ACT/Southern NSW
Housing Awards

WHERE National Convention Centre,
31 Constitution Avenue, Canberra City

WHEN Saturday, 29 October 2011
Pre-Dinner Drinks: 6pm Foyer
President's Cocktail Reception 5.45pm Level 1
(award finalists and sponsors only)
Awards & Dinner: 6.30pm Exhibition Hall
Black Tie | 1920's

DRESS

Contact HIA events on (02) 6285 7300 or act_events@hia.com.au
for registration form or more information.

BE SURE WITH



**Funded training places,
2010-2011 financial
year**

Financial year 2010-11, recorded the second highest number of funded training places on record with 12,906 workers attending approved and/or accredited training funded by the Training Fund Authority.

This figure is a slight decrease of 337 or 3% over the previous financial year.

The following table shows the sectors and number of training places funded by the Training Fund Authority in the 2010-11 financial year.

Sector	Number of training places
OH&S	8946
General Construction and Civil Engineering	1587
Finance, Business and Management	1524
Electrotechnology	849



**Work Health and Safety
Bill 2011**

On 27 June 2011, the Work Health and Safety Bill 2011 (the WH&S Bill) was introduced into the ACT Legislative Assembly. The WH&S Bill can be accessed via the ACT Legislation Register at www.legislation.act.gov.au

If passed, the Bill will implement the national harmonised work health and safety laws in the ACT.

The purpose of national harmonisation is to protect the health and safety of workers; to improve safety outcomes in workplaces; to reduce compliance costs for business; and to improve efficiency for regulatory agencies.

If passed, the Bill will replace the *Work Safety Act 2008* with effect from 1 January 2012. It will then become the principal law that provides for the health, safety and wellbeing of workers in the ACT.

To find out more information about the harmonised work health and safety laws, visit the Work Safety Commissioner's website at www.worksafe.act.gov.au

Source: *The Office of Regulatory Services monthly news bulletin*



Residential Building Approvals - June 2011

In trend terms, the number of residential approvals in the ACT increased by 5.2% to 519 in June 2011. The trend number of approvals remained significantly higher than the ACT's five-year monthly average of 265. Year-on-year to June 2011, the number of approvals is up 28.7% in original terms.

Nationally, the trend number of residential building approvals decreased by 1.6% in June 2011. Year-on-year to June 2011, the number of approvals is down 5.1% in original terms.

In June 2011, the trend number of residential approvals in the ACT increased for the ninth consecutive month and is currently at a record level. Nationally, approvals have decreased in the month.

The ABS notes care should be exercised in using the trend series for the number of building approvals in the ACT. As abnormally high or low values are discounted or excluded from the trend estimates, reliable estimation of the underlying direction is potentially problematic.

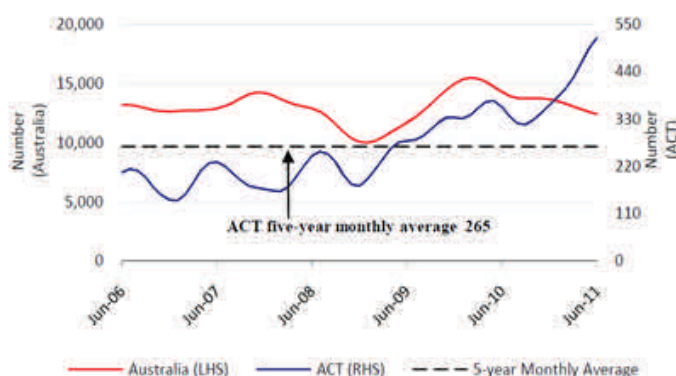
The Government's *Affordable Housing Action Plan*, combined with the planned residential land release will continue to support residential building approvals.

State/Territory Comparisons

All jurisdictions, except the ACT (up 5.2%) and the Northern Territory Tasmania (up 2.1%), experienced a decrease in the trend number of residential building approvals in June 2011. New South Wales recorded the largest decrease (down 4.3%), followed by Victoria (2%) and Western Australian (down 1%). Nationally, trend residential building approvals decreased by 1.6% in June 2011.

Source: ACT Department of Treasury, Economics Branch

**Residential Approvals — ACT & Australia
(Trend, monthly data)**



Source: ABS Cat. No. 873.0