

Newsletter

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ACT BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY

**TRAINING FUND
AUTHORITY**

Training Fund Authority met the challenges of 2009 and Plans for 2010

Despite the effect of the global financial crises and a slow-down in building activity during 2009, the Training Fund Authority provided total funding of \$2.8m for training in 2009. This figure is a decrease of \$424,000 when compared with 2008.

In spite of a decrease in the Training Authority's funding there was a noticeable increase in the funding of the **Entry Level Training** program with \$894,000 being provided to this program, an increase of \$74,000 over the previous year.

Part of the additional funding was to assist ACT Group Training Organisations with the on-going employment of their apprentices with their host employers through reduced charge out rates and continuing with off-job training if stood-down due to lack of work.

Another notable figure was an increase in the number of workers who undertook accredited training under the Training Fund Authority's **Existing Worker and Professional Development Training** program where 12,965 workers attended accredited training. This figure is an increase of 16% over the previous year.

Planning for 2010 is well underway with the release of the **2010 Training Plan** and enhanced levels of compliance activity.

Industry Supports Additional Skills Shortage Funding in 2010

After consultation with industry representatives, the Board of the Training Fund Authority approved the continuation of its Skills Shortage program in 2010.

At its December 2009 meeting the Board approved a **\$4000** training incentive for Certificate III in Furniture Making (Cabinet Making) to eligible employers.

The training incentives are provided to employers who commence a 1st year apprentice from 1 March - 31 December 2010 under an ACT Contract of Training.

Access and Equity Program

To further encourage the employment of Indigenous Australians and Women in non-traditional trades, the Board of the Training Fund Authority also approved a **\$2000** and **\$4000** incentive respectively, training incentive to eligible employers in 2010. All incentives are additional to incentives provided by the Federal Government.

For further information on the full range of training incentives, contact the Training Fund Authority ☎ 6262 5630.

2010 Training Plan

The Board of the Training Fund Authority has welcomed the approval of the **2010 Training Plan** by the Minister for Education and Training, Andrew Barr. The Plan can be viewed or downloaded from the website and hard copies are available from the Training Fund Authority office.



ABBTF
AUSTRALIAN BRICK & BLOCKLAYING
TRAINING FOUNDATION LIMITED

Supported by the Brick & Block Manufacturers of Australia

The Australian Brick & Blocklaying Training Foundation Ltd represents clay brick and concrete masonry manufacturers and was created to address the critical shortage of skilled bricklayers. The purpose is to ensure there is an adequate and competent bricklaying and blocklaying workforce to support the demand for bricks and blocks as a construction material and improve the standing of bricklayers and blocklayers in the construction industry.

To address these issues the ABBTF have implemented an apprenticeship scheme which is jointly funded by an industry contribution of \$2 per thousand clay bricks or 10 cents per square metre in the wall for concrete masonry and a matching contribution from brick and block manufacturers. The scheme applies throughout Australia except the Northern Territory.

Some of the strategies implemented to increase the number of apprentices and bricklayers include:

- Promotion and presentations of the trade through schools, community events, TAFE's and training providers.
- Provide **Step Out Programs** to secondary school students. This 40 hour program provides students with hands-on experience in bricklaying to enable young people to make an informed choice to commence an apprenticeship.
- Support for people completing pre-apprenticeship (pre-vocational) training by fee payment or incentives on starting an apprenticeship.
- Subsidise bricklayers and builders with \$6,000 for directly employing a new bricklaying apprentice.
- Subsidise bricklayers and builders for employing a new bricklaying apprentice through a group training organisation.

Each state and territory has seen an increase in numbers entering pre-apprenticeship and apprenticeship training since the scheme commenced.

Recently two successful **Step Out Programs** were held in the ACT at Melba Copland Secondary School and Hawker College.

Students at Melba built a brick barbecue for the school while students at Hawker undertook a variety of projects including pillars for seating, repairing a brick retaining wall and window sill ledges. The **Step Out Program** is visible to all students and teaching staff and puts bricklaying on show for the week while providing students with a viable option for a career in the bricklaying and construction industry.



Source: ABBTF website and newsletter



Australian Government

Apprentice Kickstart

The Deputy Prime Minister has announced *Apprentice Kickstart* - a \$100 million investment to support two measures designed to counteract the impact of the global recession on Australian Apprenticeships commencements and retention. It also aims to increase opportunities for young people to transition from school to trade training, improving their chances of engaging with long term employment.

The *Apprentice Kickstart package* introduces two initiatives: an \$80 million time limited *Apprentice Kickstart Bonus* for employers of Australian Apprentices in skills shortage trades and \$20 million to *Increase Pre-Apprenticeship Training Opportunities*.

Between **1 December 2009 and 28 February 2010**, the Australian Government will provide a \$3,350 *Apprentice Kickstart Bonus* to employers who take on a young person aged 19 years and under into a traditional trade Australian Apprenticeship. The introduction of the *Apprentice Kickstart Bonus* represents a tripling of Government support for employers of eligible Australian Apprentices in their first year of an Australian Apprenticeship.

The *Apprentice Kickstart package* also provides \$20 million to state and territory governments for *Increased Pre-Apprenticeship Training Opportunities*. Through increased provision of pre-apprenticeship training in the traditional trades, this initiative will provide a flow of suitable candidates for emerging traditional trade Australian Apprenticeship opportunities resulting from the economic recovery.

These initiatives aim to continue the development of a highly skilled workforce and provide individuals with greater job opportunities to benefit the Australian economy as we move through the global recession into economic recovery and beyond.

Source: www.australianapprenticeships.gov.au



Growing the Horticulture Industry

In response to the potential for greater skills shortages over coming years, Student to Industry Program, Turf Grass Association of Australia, Canberra Institute of Technology, and ACT Building and Construction Training Fund Authority have partnered to encourage ACT students to start a career in Horticulture.

In late September, all interested ACT year 9, 10, 11 and 12 students were invited to see what opportunities are available to them with a full day Horticulture Industry Tour. The day covered four industry sites, showcasing the breadth of industry and career opportunities available. Throughout each site the students had a behind-the-scenes look at what happens in the industry and could speak to employees as they were working.

The tour started at the Australian Institute of Sport giving the students a realistic taste of working in the industry. They were shown the different elements that this particular facility has to offer, including the variety of gardens and maintenance of playing surfaces. At the second destination, Government House, the students were taken through the Governor General's beautiful gardens, which are rarely available to the public. They were also treated to a lunch provided by the TGAA.

From Government House, the group walked to Yarralumla Nursery, where the students spoke to apprentices and were shown the historic nursery's seed collection.

The Greenkeepers at the Royal Canberra Golf Club then gave demonstrations of the grass cutting equipment and had the rare opportunity to see an Arborist at work, taking down huge trees that have been damaged by the drought.

At the end of the day, parents met their children at the Royal Canberra Golf Club. They heard about job opportunities, including Australian School Based Apprenticeships and Apprenticeships now available to the students. There were also three current young industry professionals, including past ACT Apprentices of the year, on hand to talk to the students about their experiences. These speakers spoke about the different jobs they have been on, how they've been able to travel, and passed on the general message that "the sky is the limit" for people interested in the industry.

"Through this joint initiative we're promoting our industry and presenting what we have to offer by showcasing career opportunities for young people who are keen to be involved in our industry. There are several entry levels into our industry that young people can access, including apprenticeships, traineeships and work experience," Mr Michael Waring, Course Superintendent, Royal Canberra Golf Club, and Vice President of the Turf Grass Association of Australia said.

The Horticulture Industry Tour day gave the students an insight into the endless opportunities in the industry, and most importantly, how they can begin their pursuit to get there.

Source: the above article was provided by Amalia Ridwan, PR/Marketing Officer, Student to Industry Program.

Improve your skills and professional development with the following courses.

- Wet Area Waterproofing
- Confined Space Training
- Traffic Control Management
- Introduction to OH&S
- Senior First Aid (level 2)
- OH&S Risk Management Training
- OH&S Representatives Training
- Fall Prevention
- Waterwise Course
- Testing and tagging of electrical equipment
- Open Cable Registration
- Optical Fibre Cabling
- Business Administration and Management
- Computerised Accounting

The above courses are examples of courses for which the Training Fund Authority may reimburse a percentage of the training cost (conditions apply).

For further information please call:

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