



# ABBTF

## AUSTRALIAN BRICK & BLOCKLAYING TRAINING FOUNDATION LIMITED

*Supported by the Brick & Block Manufacturers of Australia*

### **Australian Brick & Blocklaying Training Foundation Ltd**

#### **Information Sheet**

May 2007

The Australian Brick & Blocklaying Training Foundation Ltd (ABBTF) 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 within the building industry.

To address these issues 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 across the following states: Victoria, New South Wales, Australian Capital Territory, Queensland, Western Australia, South Australia and Tasmania. The scheme has been approved by the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission.

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

- Promotion of the trade through schools and the community by presentations and visits to career teacher groups and careers events. Direct promotional support for TAFE's and training organisations to increase training enrolments.
- 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 students completing pre-apprenticeship training by fee payment or incentives on starting an apprenticeship.
- Subsidise the cost of apprentice employment to bricklayers and builders.
- Employer incentive payment for their apprentice achieving year level competencies to reduce attrition levels.
- Mature age financial support is provided to employers or apprentices in some states.
- Support upskilling of existing bricklayers to gain skills and qualifications.

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

The scheme aims to achieve an increase in competent, skilled bricklayers which will reduce delays in building and construction and increase employment of young people in a skilled trade.

For further information call the ABBTF in your State.

**Australian Brick & Blocklaying Training Foundation Limited**

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**[www.becomeabricklayer.com.au](http://www.becomeabricklayer.com.au)**