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AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY MAY 2009

Newsletter of **ABBTF**  
AUSTRALIAN BRICK & BLOCKLAYING  
TRAINING FOUNDATION LIMITED

## MBA Applauds ABBTF Initiatives

Master Builders Group Training trains and employs apprentices in the construction trades. Bricklaying/blocklaying is one of these key trades and these trades have experienced critical shortages which have had a severe impact on the construction industry. In recent years MBA Group Training has had difficulty in attracting sufficient bricklaying/blocklaying apprentices to satisfy the needs of the industry. MBA Group Training has also had difficulty in attracting suitable host employers to train these apprentices.

MBA Group Training now applauds the role played by the Australian Brick & Blocklaying Training Foundation (ABBTF) who are committed to supporting and developing initiatives to address skills shortages in this critical trade area.

ABBTF fund an initiative which provides wage support to host employers to stimulate the employment and hosting demand for bricklaying apprentices.

The Step Out Program is funded by ABBTF and provides school based students with an opportunity to experience the bricklaying trade. Two of these programs are run annually with approximately 15 participants in each.

Master Builders Group training and ABBTF are committed to promoting and creating opportunities and developing initiatives to address the bricklaying skill shortage to ensure the future of our industry in this crucial sector of our industry.

Wendy Tengstrom

General Manager - Master Builders Group Training



Wendy Tengstrom and Brian Lawrence of MBA, with a group of apprentices.

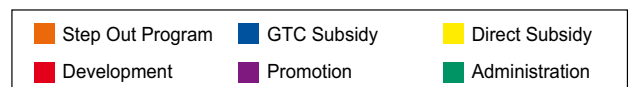
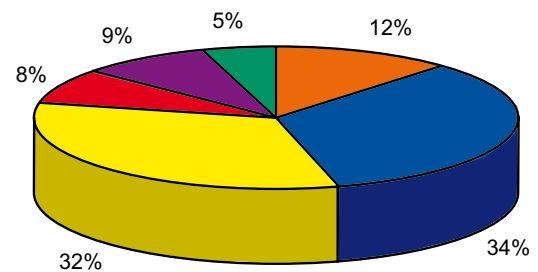
## Where Does the Money Go?

We are often asked the question – Where does the money go? The Australian Brick & Blocklaying Training Foundation (ABBTF) was formed to not only attract more bricklaying apprentices, but to also promote bricklaying as a career path.

The objective is to increase the availability of competent, skilled bricklayers, reduce construction delays and increase employment of young people in a skilled trade.

The ABBTF's apprenticeship schemes are jointly funded by brick companies and their customers by a levy of \$2 per thousand clay bricks or 10 cents per square metre for concrete masonry.

All funds raised in ACT are spent in ACT to address the skill shortage in bricklaying by funding promotion of the trade, the career path it offers, Step Out Programs for schools and apprentice employment subsidies to employers through group training companies and directly to bricklayers.



## Construction Industry Apprentice Register

The Construction Industry Training Council (CITC) and the Building and Construction Industry Training Fund Authority (BCITFA) have taken a strong industry leadership role by establishing its industry data base for out of work apprentices. This data base concept was an initiative by the CITC at the inaugural industry round table held on the 12 February this year and has been formally introduced by the ACT Department of Education as part of a broader data base for other industries.

BCITFA and CITC will be working with out of work apprentices and their employer/s in providing them with valuable information and support for them to make an informed decision on what is the best option for them to take.

If you are currently experiencing any difficulties, please give Vince Ball a ring on 6241 3977 and he will arrange to call in and see you.

There is a range of options and government support programs available to encourage the re-employment of apprentices. ABBTF welcomes this initiative, which along with ABBTF employment support, ensures that bricklaying apprentices are given better opportunities to continue their training and employment.

## Step Out Program Now in Schools

ABBTF are now taking the Step Out Program for secondary school students into the school grounds. This one week taster program for Year 10 students will create a real project such as a BBQ, garden wall or seat as a permanent fixture and an example of bricklaying by school students.

The program in schools will be visible to all students and teaching staff and will put bricklaying on show for the week.

An ABBTF working group to implement the program in schools will include Vince Ball of CITC, Michael Doyle from DET, The Masonry Contractors Association of ACT, the training bodies of CITEA and MBA and Fiona Picot of Student to Industry Programs (SIPS).

## Graduating Apprentice and Industry Encouragement Awards

The major ACT apprentice award event will be held at the Thoroughbred Park Function and Convention Centre at Lyneham on the 17 July.

The event organisers, CITC and sponsors, NRMA Insurance, ensure that the annual event is a great success. Approximately 400 attend the event from a wide range of people within the construction industry.

ABBTF are a Silver Sponsor and will be presenting the award to the best apprentice bricklayer.

## CITEA – Up Skilling Bricklayers

The Construction Industry Training and Employment Association (CITEA) is conducting a 17 week up skilling course, over one year, for experienced trowel hands to develop the skills and knowledge required to obtain a Certificate III in Bricklaying. There are seven participants on the current course. The course is open to construction workers with a minimum of three years experience laying bricks.

Course trainer Lynne Sheffield says she gets a lot of enjoyment teaching these men. "Many of them have had years in the trade so they have a very professional understanding of how the industry works and this makes my job so much more enjoyable as we can have discussions about certain issues or problems and all the men can virtually comprehend what we are talking about," said Lynne.

"To learn how to understand how the Building Code of Australia (BCA) is laid out and how to find the relevant information was important to them. That really impressed me," Lynne said.

Some of the comments from participants included:

"CITEA has given me the opportunity to better myself, by assisting me in all my theory and practical enquiries."

"I have improved my understanding of site set out and leveling. I am also better at interpreting plans and other drawings".

"I believe this course is a great idea for people like me who have been in the trade for some time to finally get a qualification".



Jason Sibley at back, left is Chris Love and right is Abilio Torado on the CITEA trowel course.

## Claiming ABBTF Incentives – Simple as 1, 2, 3

The ABBTF apprentice subsidy of \$6,000 is paid over three years and to claim, the process is easy:

1. A simple phone call to register your apprentice
2. Complete the claim form/s we send you on completion of each year level
3. Return with your tax invoice and relevant evidence for payment directly into your bank account.

It is even easier through a Group Training Company where an \$8,000 incentive is available. The GTC makes the claims on your behalf, reducing your charge out rate over the term of the apprenticeship.

**Get the skills... to go places!**

**Your Pathway to Success**

APPRENTICESHIP CERTIFICATE III IN BRICKLAYING/BLOCKLAYING OR PRE-APPRENTICESHIP/PRE-VOCATIONAL BUILDING & CONSTRUCTION - BRICKLAYING

QUALIFIED TRADESPERSON

CERTIFICATE IV IN BUILDING

CERTIFICATE OF BUILDING SURVEYING, BUILDING DESIGN & DRAFTING

BUILDING INSPECTOR, QUANTITY SURVEYOR, BUILDING ESTIMATOR

BACHELOR OF TECHNOLOGY CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT, ESTIMATING SUPERVISORS

CONSTRUCTION MANAGER

LEADING HAND

SELF EMPLOYED SUB CONTRACTOR

SELF EMPLOYED BUILDER

FOREMAN

SITE SUPERVISOR

All enquiries to: **1300 66 44 96**

for all you need to know about bricklaying/blocklaying apprenticeships

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## Bricklaying Career Path at Training Centres

ABBTF signs (Get the Skills to Go Places) have been erected at training centres at CITEA and MBA. This promotional sign also shows the career path and the possibilities that come from bricklayer training.