

# Aussie BRICKLAYER



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Bricklayer & Apprentice  
Makes good business sense

QUEENSLAND

March 2011

## ABBTf \$2,000 Brickstart Bonus Finishes 31 March

**\$12,000 Apprentice Incentive ABBTf Brickstart Bonus for Bricklayers**

Australian Brick and Blocklaying Training Foundation (ABBTf) has announced an extension to the **\$2,000 Brickstart Bonus** paid at the completion of Year 1. Brickstart Bonus is available to employers of new bricklaying apprentices in **Queensland**.

This is in addition to the Federal Government Subsidy and ABBTf's Brickstart Subsidy.

ABBTf **Brickstart Bonus** is applicable from 1 March 2010 to 31 March 2011, and must be registered with ABBTf within 6 months from the date of indenture and the subsidy claimed within 3 months of completion of year 1.

**Call ABBTf on 1300 66 44 96**

Visit: [www.abbtbf.com.au](http://www.abbtbf.com.au)  
or [www.becomeabricklayer.com.au](http://www.becomeabricklayer.com.au)

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\* Conditions apply.

<b>There's never been a better time!</b>	
■ ABBTf Brickstart Bonus	\$ 2,000
Hurry - only until 31 March 2011	
■ ABBTf Brickstart Subsidy	\$ 6,000
■ Federal Government	\$ 4,000
<b>Employer Incentive</b>	<b>\$12,000*</b>



ABBTf's special \$2,000 Brickstart bonus for employers taking on apprentices extended from last year, will finish on 31 March 2011. Bricklayers need to hurry to sign on an apprentice and get the extra \$2,000.

"We urge eligible employers to take on bricklaying apprentices and get a total benefit of \$12,000 which includes the normal ABBTf \$6,000 subsidy, the \$2,000 Brickstart bonus and the Federal Government's \$4,000 subsidy.

"It makes good business sense to take on bricklaying apprentices as they will help to improve the productivity of your bricklaying business. Good reliable apprentices will learn and enable another tradesman to do more so the employer can earn more," said Tony Bishop, ABBTf's Queensland Manager.

For more information on ABBTf's Brickstart Bonus visit [www.becomeabricklayer.com.au](http://www.becomeabricklayer.com.au) or call 1300 66 44 96. Don't miss out call now.

## Receive Your ABBTf Newsletter Electronically

If you would like to receive your ABBTf newsletter electronically for greater convenience and faster transmission call 1300 66 44 96, email us or email us via our website [www.becomeabricklayer.com.au](http://www.becomeabricklayer.com.au)

## ABBTf Support Flood and Cyclone Affected Contractors

The Queensland floods and cyclone Yasi, as well as a long wet season, have seriously affected families and disrupted businesses in many areas of the State.

ABBTf is aware this has placed great strain on businesses and some contractors may be looking to cancel their apprentices as they are finding it increasingly harder to make ends meet. They will be concerned about their ability to retain employees and apprentices until the recovery process is well under way.

ABBTf is ready to assist bricklaying contractors through this difficult period by explaining the best options to take, in respect to retaining their apprentices.

It would be great shame to put so much training into your apprentice only to let them go when you know work is only a few weeks away.

For information and assistance call (07) 3205 5559 or 1300 66 44 96.

Our thoughts are with all our colleagues in the construction industry during these difficult times.

## Matt Morris Bolsters ABBTf Expertise

ABBTf Queensland welcomes Matt Morris who has joined as a field representative. With eighteen years in the trade, Matt has a lot of hands-on experience and knowledge up his sleeve and is keen to encourage more young people to choose a career in bricklaying.

Matt is running the "Try-a-Trade" and "Step Out" programs, as well as connecting bricklayers and potential apprentices.

He started in the industry in 1993 with an apprenticeship with Big A group training. He then worked for Priest & Co Bricklayers for more than eight years, working mainly on large commercial jobs in a leading hand and foreman role.

"I originally chose bricklaying because I really like the physical work and like being outdoors," Matt said. "I also like working with a bunch of characters, and there are plenty of those around the sites!"

Matt started his own bricklaying business nine years ago, and will continue to manage it while working with the ABBTf four days a week.



"Being a brickie can give you so many career options, from a wage earner to a qualified builder and beyond. It's really up to the individual.

"As I get around talking to young apprentices, I encourage them to stick at it and work hard to get qualified so that they will always have that trade to fall back on.

"It's a really satisfying job for people who take a lot of pride in what they do, and is a great stepping stone into other jobs in the building game. I think I'm a good example of the different paths you can take, and I hope that will be food for thought for young people thinking about their future," Matt added.

Married with two children and living in Daisy Hill, Matt has hung up his footy boots these days and now enjoys watching his two children at their sports.

## Apprentices to Receive \$5,500 Tax Free Bonus to Stay in Trade

ABBTF has welcomed the Federal Government's Trade Apprentice Income Bonus which will encourage apprentices to stay in their trade.

The Trade Apprentice Income Bonus, which incorporates the Tools for your Trade payment, will mean apprentices will receive tax-free payments as they reach milestones in their apprenticeship starting with a payment of \$800 after three months with a total of \$5,500 payable up to completion.

ABBTF's general manager, Geoff Noble, says a number of apprentices leave their trade before completion exacerbating the skills shortage in the construction industry.

"We have had considerable success increasing the numbers of bricklaying apprentices coming into the trade through our generous subsidy for employers. Now the Federal Government's Bonus will directly encourage apprentices, through the milestone payments, to go right through and obtain their qualification.

"The Bonus could not come at a better time with the rebuilding process required in Queensland towns affected by floods and cyclone Yasi. This is going to create a drain on construction so there are going to be many opportunities for bricklaying apprentices to get work in their local area," he added.

Call 1300 66 44 96 or visit [www.becomeabricklayer.com.au](http://www.becomeabricklayer.com.au)

### Did You Know ?

Did you know that ABBTF is actively promoting the recruitment and training of brick and blocklaying apprentices? This is undertaken through a range of programs including site visits, communications to employers and prospective apprentices, Trade Expos, and Career Events as well as advertising and public relations. Our major investment is in subsidy support for employers of apprentices. The investments in bricklayer training and promotion in Queensland is applied as above.

## Campaign to Promote Bricklaying and Blocklaying

ABBTF ran a promotional campaign in January with the message above. The promotion highlights the career path provided by a brick and blocklaying qualification. It is designed to lift the image of the trade and make young people, their parents and schools aware of the great opportunities that come through a trade qualification in bricklaying.

The promotion was shown throughout Queensland in cinemas, newspapers and billboards and will appeal to young, ambitious, aspiring potential apprentices who want the freedom to choose their future.

### Handy Bricklaying Tips

The following is designed to help contractors:

You have arrived at your lay only job site and you see the builder or owner builder has purchased exposure grade bricks and stainless steel ties.

Chances are you are in a marine or severe environment, so you need to get your mortar at the right strength. M4 classifications are within 100 metres from a non surf coast or within 1 kilometre from a surf coast. M3 classifications are within 9 kilometres from a surf or non surf coast.

These two different classifications can be the difference between a 4 to 1 mix or a 5 to 1 mix. You should check your

street directory or your GPS first. Mix designs for each particular classification will usually be written on each individual bag of cement. If you are no where near the ocean or any marine environment you may be in a new sub division that was once an industrial area or even an old farm. Fertilisers and chemicals may have nitrates and sulphates which eat at bricks and mortars.

Ask the owner or builder for the mortar specs before you mix your first batch and eliminate a costly call back. Also suggest an exposure grade mortar or brick to any work you are doing around a salt water pool.

*By John White-Masonry Contractors Association.*

