

Sept 2010

Skill Hire Biggest Employer of Bricklaying Apprentices in Australia



Skillhire staff jump for joy after hearing news that they have become Australia's biggest employer of bricklaying apprentices

We congratulate Skill Hire of WA for becoming the biggest employer of bricklaying apprentices in Australia! They now employ 130 bricklaying apprentices which accounts for 25% of bricklaying apprenticeships in WA.

Skill Hire and ABBTf have worked closely together to build apprentice numbers. A combination of ABBTf's Brickstart Subsidy and Skill Hire's enthusiasm and expertise will see further growth in apprentice numbers as the WA economy continues to recover. Well done to Bob Hodnett and team, a remarkable achievement.

Craig Delecq Le Montais - School Builder Specialist

Meet Craig Delecq Le Montais of C&W Bricklaying. Craig immigrated to Australia from the United Kingdom in 1982 after completing his Advanced Bricklaying Certificate at City and Guilds in Staffordshire.

In 1990 Craig embarked on his first school contract laying bricks to build St Lukes College in Karratha and has been building schools in WA for other builders ever since. In 2010 he's still 'flat-out', but does find some time for his other interests including motorbike riding and golf.

Some of his current schools under construction include:

- Star of the Sea
- Quinns Baptist College
- Carey Baptist College
- St Pauls Primary
- Mel Maria Catholic School

- St Columbus School
- St Augustine's College
- Queen of Apostles School

Many of these schools are being built under the Building Education Revolution (BER) program, which has been a very welcome boost to the West Australian construction industry. Craig is partnering with builders including Cooktown Constructions, Logan Parker and Badge Constructions.

For an undertaking of this magnitude it is very important to have good tradesman and staff around you. Craig has four teams working for him, with a complement of 20, of which four are bricklaying apprentices, including both Indigenous Australian and international students from South Africa, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom.

"I reckon ABBTf do a fantastic job in helping our businesses overall," Craig said.

Craig's Gun Apprentice

One of Craig's more recent apprentices is Adam McGuiness. Adam is a young deaf first year bricklaying apprentice who is also making his mark on the world.

Adam completed a pre-vocational bricklaying program at Silver Trowel in Cannington two years ago. He then commenced with Craig with a very high degree of enthusiasm.

So much so that Craig told us that Adam on several occasions insisted that he work before and after his scheduled training days.

"Silver Trowel opens its doors at around 7.30am; however we start around 6am. Adam insisted that he come to work for us that morning, did an hour before going to Silver Trowel and another hour or two in the afternoon when they finished – remarkable!" Craig said.

Adam also plays Aussie Rules for the Perth Football Club. He hopes to play for West Coast one day.

Adam, like so many bricklaying apprentices in WA, may fast-track his training given his ability to overcome personal challenges and demonstrate competency.

Look out for Adam on your TV screens as he may be our first bricklaying footballer to play in the AFL!



L-R: Craig Delecq Le Montais, Adam McGuiness, Steve Montague, Gary Dempsey

\$400 Tool Voucher for International Students



International students from Silver Trowel built a display for Butko Transport

ABBTF is fully committed to promoting and supporting bricklayer trade training through a variety of means which include International Student Training.

We are offering a \$400 tool voucher to any International Bricklaying Student who has completed their training in Bricklaying/Blocklaying through a West Australian registered training organisation. The applicant must also provide evidence that they have made application for permanent residency.

Silver Trowel Trade Training and Polytechnic West provide international bricklayer training for the Building and

Construction industry.

"All bricklaying qualifications delivered are nationally accredited, internationally recognised and provide students with a curriculum which meets their needs and prepares them for the workplace," said Anne Skerratt, director, Silver Trowel.

Polytechnic West runs their International Bricklayer Training at Balga Campus with Eddie Campbell.

ABBTF are keen to see these students complete their training and satisfy all requirements to achieve a permanent role in bricklaying in WA

"ABBTF is doing a great job in promoting the trade and supporting employers and apprentices."

The principal contractor and Tyrone Bricklaying won awards for the project.

Tyrone currently has two first year apprentices, one second and one third year, having had one of their current tradesmen recently qualify. They also have two international students who are undertaking the bricklaying course through Silver Trowel.

"ABBTF is doing a great job in promoting the trade and supporting both employers and apprentices by offering extra incentives in an industry that suffers a lot due to the labour shortage," Alistair said.

"I believe that the new apprentices have to enjoy working outdoors, are not afraid of a bit of hard work and be able to learn from their mistakes."

"Me, well I've been off the tools for about two years now, normally tendering on new jobs and organising our various sites, although I sometimes miss the 'craic-on-site."

Alistair enjoys getting away on his motorbike, travelling and a round of golf. Sounds like a mixture of good work and the good life!

The Alistair Adams Success Story



Tyrone Bricklaying is one of Western Australia's great success stories. Established in 2005 Tyrone Bricklaying has grown to become a most respected force in the industry. Its founder, Alistair Adams was an apprentice in his family building business in Ireland and moved to Australia in 2001.

"I started my apprenticeship at the age of 18 and after that worked in Germany for three years before flying out to Sydney," Alistair said.

"Our company's success is a result of our staff's dedication to the highest standards in all aspects of its business, ensuring safety procedures are not only met, but surpassed. We believe in utilising highly skilled and trained tradespeople to produce the best quality workmanship on projects in the commercial and residential sectors," he added.

"I've worked with a lot of good tradesmen over the years and was very lucky to be employed for three years by the Sydney bricklaying company Brobrick who sponsored me for my residency," Alistair said.

Tyrone Bricklaying started in 2005 with just two employees and has now grown to over 50 full time staff.

"We have done several large commercial projects in and around the city of Perth over the last few years from state housing, schools, universities and churches, the most prestigious being St Mary's Cathedral in Victoria Square, Perth which was completed last year," he added.

Bricklaying on Show at Skills West Expo

Bricklaying was one of the career options showcased at the Skills West Expo in September at the Perth Convention Centre. ABBTF's display also included a Try-a-Trade which created great interest.

A speed bricklaying test was held on the Saturday and Sunday. This involved three competitors at a time building a brick pier in 10 minutes.

Dean Pearson says "There was a mix of competitors, a female apprentice (Tiffany Christie), a pre-apprentice, a World Skills champion (Luke Dixon), Ian Fitzgerald (ABBTF), Brad Wickham and Bill (Trades North). The speed test proved very successful.

"ABBTF had great support for the speed test, our display and the Try-a-Trade from: Challenger TAFE, Trades North, Skill Hire, ABN Group (The Homebuyer Centre), Austral Bricks, Midland Brick, Silver Trowel, West Australian Group Training Scheme, Polytechnics West.

National REPORT



Operating results for 2009/2010

During the year to June 2010 Australian Brick & Blocklaying Training Foundation (ABBTf) achieved the following:

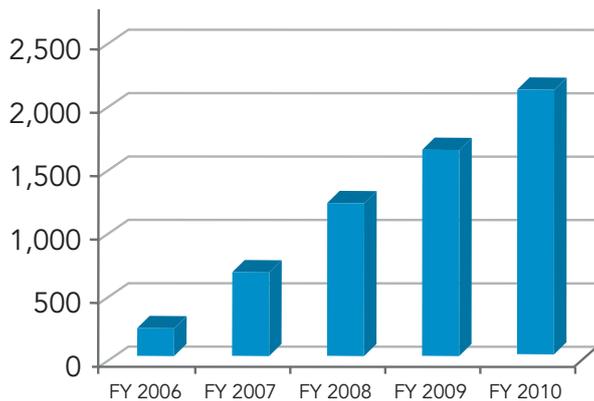
- Increased the number of supported apprentices by subsidies to their employers based on satisfactory training outcomes. The number has increased to 2,144 which is 34% higher than 2009.
- Introduction of new Brickstart bonus to employers in year one in some states as a short term promotion to boost apprentice commencements.
- Support for mature aged apprentices or their employers to overcome their financial disadvantage.
- More than 2,400 secondary students participated in ABBTf Step Out Programs to gain hands-on experience in bricklaying.
- Support for pre-entry training in bricklaying which saw 950 enrolments in preparation for an apprenticeship.
- Deployment of three field representatives across QLD, NSW and WA and two promotional Try a Trade vans to improve our coverage and influence with potential employers, school students and careers expos.
- Extension of the regional travel allowance to apprentices to more states to overcome the disadvantage of distance from training centres.
- Introduced financial support for existing workers to have their bricklaying skills assessed and recognised, to enable completion of gap training to achieve a qualification in bricklaying.
- Support and involvement in events at regional and national levels to promote high achievers and excellence in bricklaying including WorldSkills, Golden Trowel and Brick Masterclass.
- Initiate collaborative meetings of TAFE training personnel for validation of the new training package, resource sharing and receiving ABBTf and industry information.
- Creation of new marketing image and logo to focus on the separate targets of the potential apprentice and to the bricklayer as the employer.
- A new website to attract young people into bricklaying.
- Publication of 18 editions of newsletters which have been revamped to target bricklayers and industry stakeholders.
- Attendance at 134 career events and promotions to encourage young people into the trade.

Operating Results	2009/10 No.s	2008/09 No.s	Financial Results	2009/10 \$000's	2008/09 \$000's
Apprentices Supported by ABBTf	2,144	1,628	Revenue	7,074	6,635
Mature Apprentices Supported	61	79	Total Expenditure	9,251	6,477
Apprentices in Training	2,776	2,641	Operating Surplus	(2,177)	158
Step Out Program Students	2,424	3,027	Training Reserve	2,247	4,424
App Regional Travel Support	30	0	App Subsidies to Employers	6,420	3,533
Pre-Apprenticeship Enrolments	950	635	Training Support	270	316
TAFE Colleges and RTO's	52	50	Step Out Program	730	747
Group Training Organisations	67	70	Promotion	742	790
Careers Events Attended	134	124	Development	650	649
Newsletter Mailing List	50,000	44,000	Administration	439	442

The full Statutory Annual Report will be available on the website or hardcopy on request.

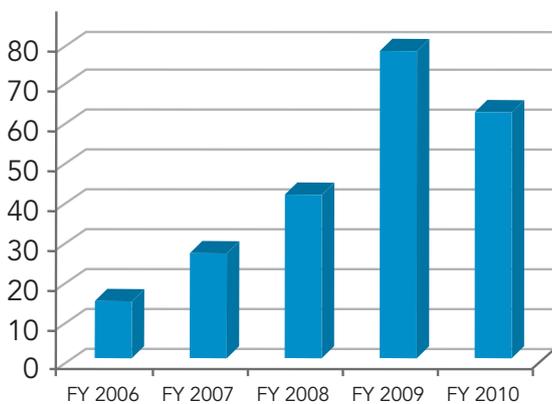
National Operating Results for 2009-2010

Supported Apprentices



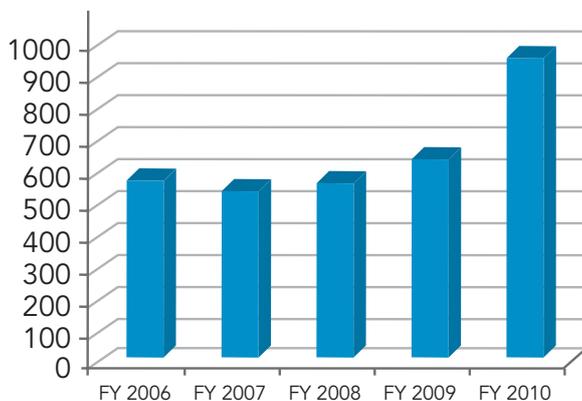
The strong growth in the number of subsidised apprentices has continued in the year to June 2010. ABBTF support has helped employers train and retain their apprentices.

Mature Age Support



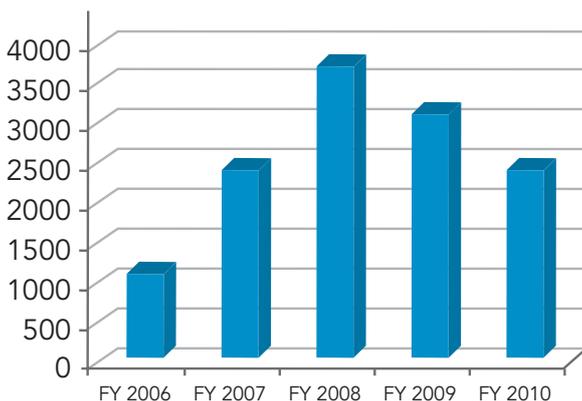
ABBTF supports apprentices over the age of 21 (23 in Victoria) with payments to overcome the financial disadvantage of apprentices in this older age group.

Pre-Entry Support



ABBTF support has helped encourage young people to complete bricklayer training in pre-apprenticeship or pre-vocational courses to make them work ready to start an apprenticeship.

Step Out Programs



The ABBTF Step Out Program has been a strong influence on career choices in construction. The one week hands-on taster has varied across regions to a shorter try-a-trade at careers events. More than 11,500 students have completed the schools bricklaying program over the past four years.

HIA Apprentice Awards

The HIA Apprentice Awards were held at the Burswood Casino in July this year with ABBTF sponsoring all bricklaying categories. The award winners were:

- 1st Year Dwayne Lucas
Host employer Gemmill Homes
- 2nd Year Luke Dixon
Host employer Vince Ciccarone
- 3rd Year Ryan Krentzin
Host employer Charlie Atuso



Best 3rd Year Ryan Krentzin receives his Award from ABBTF's Dean Pearson

Ray McGrath, manager HIA Apprentices WA speaking at the awards in a speech entitled 'Apprentices and the Future of Building and Construction', got straight to the point.

"Just as university is the breeding ground for our doctors, nurses and engineers, trade apprenticeships are the future of the Building and Construction Industry.

"We could never afford to have untrained doctors or lawyers and so the training of trades people who construct the homes in which we all live is no less vital if we are to provide a quality product for all to enjoy."

ABBTF is proud to have been a sponsor of the awards and we congratulate all the winners. "Our future is in the hands of these young apprentices and recognition of the skills they have achieved through the awards is important," said Dean Pearson, ABBTF's WA manager.

