



Speech by

**Hon. R. SCHWARTEN**

**MEMBER FOR ROCKHAMPTON**

---

Hansard 10 November 1998

**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT**

**Q-Build Apprenticeships**

**Hon. R. E. SCHWARTEN** (Rockhampton— ALP) (Minister for Public Works and Minister for Housing) (10.05 a.m.), by leave: I am pleased today to announce that Q-Build will next week open applications for 140 new apprenticeships across Queensland. The 140 new positions are 50 more than our predecessors offered last year and will cover a range of apprenticeships in the building, construction and engineering trades. This intake is one of the largest ever and will play a significant role in this Government's jobs strategy. It will also make an important contribution towards reducing crucial skills shortages in some areas of the State.

The apprenticeships will be offered in locations as far north as Thursday Island, west to Mount Isa and south to Brisbane and the Gold Coast. Applications for the apprenticeships open next Monday, 16 November and close on 27 November. Interviews will be conducted during February and our 140 new apprentices will start work in early March 1999. Application forms will be available from Monday at any Q-Build office or TAFE college or by accessing the Q-Build home page on the Internet.

The categories in which apprentices will be employed include carpenter, plumber, painter, electrical mechanic, refrigeration mechanic, fitter and turner, glazier, joiner, wood machinist and upholsterer. The successful applicants will work in one of the 13 Q-Build regions throughout the State. Because recruitment will be aligned to the level of work opportunities and shortages of apprentices in different regions of the State, not all trade apprenticeships will be available in every region.

This year the Government is making a particular effort to encourage applications from young people who have faced particular difficulties in entering employment in the construction industry, including women, those with disabilities, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders and those with a non-English speaking background.

In past years there has been intense competition for Q-Build apprenticeships. There have often been up to 10 applicants for every available position. That reflects the value of the training Q-Build offers and the calibre of its tradespeople. At present, Q-Build employs 313 apprentices in the building, construction and engineering trades. It is justifiably proud of the training it provides and the role it plays in preparing young people for careers in the building and construction sector.

I urge any young person interested in trade training to apply for a Q-Build apprenticeship. As someone who started his working life in the building industry, I know just how valuable that training can be. I look forward to welcoming our new apprentices in March next year.

---