



Speech by

**Hon. R. SCHWARTEN**

**MEMBER FOR ROCKHAMPTON**

---

Hansard 12 December 2001

**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT**

**Q-Build Apprenticeships**

**Hon. R. E. SCHWARTEN** (Rockhampton—ALP) (Minister for Public Works and Minister for Housing) (9.58 a.m.), by leave: Last month I announced to the House the opening of applications for 90 apprenticeships being offered in 2002 by the government's works and maintenance group, Q-Build. At the time I indicated that competition for the available positions would be tough. That has certainly proved to be the case. Q-Build has received almost 2,300 applications from across the state for the available positions. This high demand for training positions is in line with previous years. It indicates the strong desire by young Queenslanders to secure trade skills while underlining the good standing Q-Build enjoys as a training organisation.

I am pleased that the number of female applicants has increased significantly this year—65 applications compared with 36 this time last year. While that is still only a small percentage of the total, it is certainly a move in the right direction. Interviews and selection of the 90 new apprentices, including 10 school based positions, will be held by January with the successful applicants starting work in March.

The 2002 intake will mean 425 young Queenslanders have secured apprenticeships with Q-Build since the election of the Beattie government. At any one time Q-Build has around 360 apprentices on its books, with about 200 of them based outside Brisbane. Of the 90 new positions being offered for 2002, almost 60 are in rural or regional areas. That is why I cannot understand why the opposition do not support us. Q-Build's apprenticeship program is a massive investment in training and the future of our building industry. It is also a massive investment in rural and regional Queensland.

---