

**Question on Notice**  
**No. 747**  
**Asked Tuesday, 24 May 2005**

MR FELON asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations  
**(Mr Barton):**

QUESTION:

What is the Queensland Government doing to promote the uptake of apprenticeships and traineeships in the Brisbane south region?

ANSWER:

1. The Department of Employment and Training regularly **conducts tailored sessions on apprenticeships and traineeships with key groups** within the Brisbane South and Gold Coast regions. Between 1 July 2004 and 31 March 2005, the department presented at 101 of these sessions and at seven expo/career events in this region. These sessions will continue in 2005/06.

2. The **Queensland Training Awards** recognise Queensland's top training achievers and as such provide the state's most prestigious platform for promoting vocational education and training. The awards are a joint government and industry initiative designed to recognise the achievements of apprentices, trainees, vocational students, employers, schools, and training providers.

Each year the awards continue to reach a wider range of Queensland organisations and individuals, with 107 entries from the Gold Coast alone this year. The awards are widely marketed to small, medium and large businesses, community and public sector organisations, training providers, schools as well as thousands of apprentices, trainees and vocational students.

The Gold Coast final of the Queensland Training Awards will be held on Friday 10 June 2005 at The Gold Coast Convention Centre, and the Brisbane final will be held on Thursday 16 June 2005 at the Gabba Cricket Ground.

3. The **promotion of school-based apprenticeships and traineeships** continues to be a high priority for the department and the following initiatives have commenced in the Brisbane South and Gold Coast Region.

- The **Work Readiness Program** (Gold Coast) targets students 'at risk' of leaving school prematurely, providing them with access to a job preparation program with a view to placement in employment through a school based apprenticeship or traineeship. The program is funded by the Department of Education through *Employment and Training Reform Initiative* grants and facilitated by the Department of Employment and Training. The program, with the participation of the Employment Plus Job Network Agency, will be delivered to 300 students across 15 schools in 2004-05 and 680 students across 34 schools in 2005-06.

- The Gold Coast District Youth Achievement Plan Employment Action Group is conducting schools career nights and work expos to **promote school based apprenticeships and traineeships as an option for students in years 11 and 12**. The group is also developing an information DVD for teachers, parents and students which will be available to all schools in the Brisbane South and Gold Coast Region. This activity will be expanded to other districts in Brisbane South Region in 2005/06.
  - The Department's regional office is supporting existing school based apprentices and trainees by delivering **question and answer sessions to students and their vocational education and training coordinators** at schools in the Mt Gravatt/Coopers Plains educational districts which have ten or more school based apprentices and trainees. This initiative will be expanded into the Logan district in June 2005.
4. The Department of Employment and Training will be a major sponsor of the Building and Construction Industry Training Expo to be held at the Gold Coast in August 2005. The expo will promote apprenticeships and traineeships by demonstrating to young people how this kind of training can be used to progress to all levels of employment in an important industry that is currently facing significant skills shortages.