

## Question on Notice

No. 1324

Asked on 31 October 2006

Mr Cripps asked the Minister for Education and Training and Minister for the Arts (Mr Welford) —

### QUESTION:

With reference to the requirements for apprentices to undertake a set period of training to acquire a necessary level of practical competency and theoretical knowledge —

- (1) What is the number of trades where the required apprenticeship period has been reduced from four or more years to three years or less?
- (2) What research or evidence was used as the basis for these changes being implemented?
- (3) Have industry organisations been approached to verify that apprentices will be able to achieve competence in their field by undertaking an accelerated program?

### ANSWER:

- (1) 23
- (2) The changes being implemented follow a formal review undertaken by the State's Training and Employment Recognition Council (TERC). These changes were announced as a part of the actions detailed in the Queensland Skills Plan. The review included consultations, written submissions and formal hearings involving key stakeholders, as well as detailed research and analysis. This research and analysis considered:
  - a. Training statistics regarding apprenticeship commencements, cancellations and completions;
  - b. Feedback on the 2005 green paper, *Queensland's proposed responses to the challenges of skills for jobs and growth*;
  - c. Labour market predictions for growth forecast changes in specific trade areas and the growth in demand brought about by Queensland's growing economy;
  - d. Interstate benchmarking regarding the nominal off-the-job training hours and apprenticeship terms;
  - e. User Choice student satisfaction surveys;
  - f. Feedback from registered training organisations (RTOs);
  - g. Identifying other models for accelerated learning and/or completion.
- (3) Yes. The achievement of the required levels of competency will depend on the individual concerned and their dedication to their trade but there is not intention of compromising the competence levels of apprentices in the minimum set periods proposed.