

Question on Notice
No. 263
Asked Tuesday, 7 March 2006

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

QUESTION:

Are the Government's training policies successful in attracting Queenslanders into apprenticeships and traineeships?

ANSWER:

Yes.

Recently released figures from the National Centre for Vocational Education Research that show the number of Queenslanders undertaking apprenticeships and traineeships are at an all-time high are proof that the Queensland Government's training policies are helping to skill Queenslanders.

These figures show that 77,200 Queenslanders were in training in an apprenticeship or traineeship at the end of September 2005, an increase of 3,800, or 4.9%, compared to September 2004. This compares with a decrease of 3,100 nationally over the same period.

The latest increase in apprentices and trainees in training was the 23rd successive quarter year-on-year that Queensland had recorded a record number in training.

The number of Queenslanders in apprenticeships and traineeships has sky-rocketed by more than 50% - from 51,200 at the end of September 2000 to 77,200 at the end of September 2005.

42% of all apprenticeships and traineeships in Queensland are being undertaken in the traditional trades area (up from 40.8% in June 2005), compared to the Australian average of 37.2%.

Queensland is also continuing to perform strongly in getting young people into training, with Queensland again leading the nation in school-based apprenticeships and traineeships. 10% of Queensland's apprenticeship and traineeship commencements in the September 2005 quarter were school-based apprenticeships and traineeships, compared to only 4.6% nationally.

In addition, 42.5% of apprentices and trainees in training fall into the young people category (aged 19 years and under), compared to the national rate of 34%.