

Question on Notice
No. 508
Asked Wednesday, 19 April 2006

MS MALE asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations and Minister for Sport (**Mr Barton**):

QUESTION:

What incentives is the State Government offering to promote the uptake of apprenticeships and traineeships?

ANSWER:

Under the Government's *Breaking the Unemployment Cycle* initiative, a comprehensive range of incentives are available for both public and private sector employers to take on apprentices and trainees.

Currently in the public sector, incentives of up to \$16,000 are available for at least 2,400 full time trainees each year and \$4,000 for each school-based apprentice or trainee employed. Since the start of this program in 1998, 19,616 full time trainees, and 1,529 school-based apprentices and trainees have been employed in the public sector through these incentives.

In the private sector, employers receive incentives of up to \$2,000 for employing apprentices in skill shortage industries. Employers in rural and remote areas also receive up to \$4,000 for each school-based apprentice or trainee. Since 1998, 17,308 employers have received incentives totalling \$65.6M for employing an additional 35,735 apprentices and trainees in skill shortage industries. Private sector employers in rural and remote areas have received a further \$2M for employing 1,013 school-based apprentices and trainees.

This government is serious about skilling our workforce and I am pleased to say these incentives have been instrumental in encouraging employers to take on more apprentices and trainees. This has led to a 60.5 % increase in the numbers of apprentices and trainees in training, up from 46,044 in June 1998 to 76,100 in June 2005.

All apprentices and trainees in Queensland attract pay-roll tax exemption with the exception of Certificate level II trainees who are existing workers and commenced their traineeship on or after 1 December 2002.

To support the role of group training in Queensland, the Department of Employment and Training allocated \$5.75M in Commonwealth and State funding in 2005-06 to assist group training organisations to create additional employment opportunities for apprentices and trainees that may not have existed; to provide for continuity of employment and to improve the quality and range of training.

In May 2005, the Queensland Government approved a training levy at 0.1 % of leviabale activity in the building and construction industry. As a result the Building and Construction Industry Training Fund (QLD) Ltd constitution was amended to reflect the State of Queensland as the Sole Member through the Minister for Employment and Training, and Industrial Relations and Minister for Sport.

The fund provides financial incentives ranging from \$1,750 per annum to \$7,000 per annum over two years in targeted occupational areas and disadvantaged groups to increase the number of apprentices and trainees entering the building and construction industry.