

Question on Notice
No. 526
Asked Wednesday, 19 April 2006

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

QUESTION:

What incentives and support does the Department of Employment and Training provide to businesses looking to employ and train new apprentices?

ANSWER:

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

The **Youth Training Incentives** program is a commitment made to the *Education and Training Reforms for the Future* to provide incentives to employers who recruit school students in the secondary phase of learning in school-based apprenticeships and traineeships. The program aims to boost opportunities for young people seeking to enter the workforce after their completion of senior secondary education and to provide access to under-represented students such as those in rural and remote Queensland. Incentives of up to \$4,000 are provided to private sector employers in 96 identified rural and remote shires.

Since its commencement on 1 January 2004 to 31 March 2006, 546 private sector employers in rural and remote areas have attracted \$2.48M in state funding to employ 1,013 school-based apprentices and trainees.

The Department's *Breaking the Unemployment Cycle* initiative also has assisted to alleviate skill shortages. The **Strategic Employment Development Program** currently provides a one-off incentive payment of up to \$2 000 to eligible private sector employers who employ additional apprentices in traditional skill-shortage trades within the automotive, aviation, building and construction, electrical and electronics, and metals and engineering industries.

Since 1998, 17,308 employers have received incentives totalling \$65.6M for employing an additional 35,735 apprentices and trainees in skill shortage industries.

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 leviable 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.