

**Question on Notice
No. 598
Asked Friday, 21 April 2006**

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

QUESTION:

With reference to the Manufacturing Industry Initiative which is a statewide strategy to address critical skill shortages in Queensland's manufacturing industry-

What strategies are specific to the Gold Coast region?

ANSWER:

The Manufacturing Industry Initiative is a 3 year \$3 million strategy ending in June 2007 which aims to enhance the image of manufacturing, attract quality new entrants, particularly into apprenticeships and traineeships in skills shortage areas and provide skill development opportunities for existing workers across the state.

As a key element of the Manufacturing Industry Initiative, the Competitive Manufacturing Initiative pilot program has seen \$336 424 provided to the Gold Coast Institute of TAFE to pilot the Competitive Manufacturing Training Package to 54 existing workers. The Competitive Manufacturing Training Package provides a range of qualifications specifically developed to provide the manufacturing sector with training in lean manufacturing and modern manufacturing techniques.

In collaboration with the Department of State Development, Trade and Innovation, as part of "Making Queensland's Future" the Manufacturing Strategy, the development of partnering arrangements between local industry and schools is also a key initiative under the Manufacturing Industry Initiative.

These partnering arrangements facilitate engagement activities between local manufacturing industries, schools and community organisations to enhance the image of manufacturing and reduce skill shortages. A successful industry-school partnership recently established in the Yatala Region, between Stratco and Upper Coomera State High School has seen school-based traineeships being offered to 7 students within three weeks of initial round table meeting. This industry-school partnership is also seeing plans developed for a manufacturing project to be incorporated within the school curriculum.

Further engagement activities are being investigated by the Department of Employment and Training, Department of State Development, Trade and Innovation and Education Queensland with a group of Gold Coast manufacturers, including DA Manufacturing, BOCAR, PWR Racing, Custom Coaches, KJ Thermal, ESS Engineering and Swagman. A meeting of these companies is proposed for early May to discuss appropriate activities to be undertaken with Gold Coast schools.