

## **Question on Notice**

**No. 306**

**Asked on 7 March 2007**

**Mr Copeland** asked the Minister for Education and Training and Minister for the Arts (Mr Welford) -

### **QUESTION:**

How many adult apprenticeship applications were received by the Technical Trades and Skilling Institute (formerly TAFE Queensland) in 2004, 2005, 2006 and 2007 (reported separately) and of those applications how many adult applicants were successful in each year (reported separately) in gaining placement at the Institute?

### **ANSWER:**

The Trade and Technician Skills Institute (TTSI) was established under the *Queensland Skills Plan*. It is not formerly TAFE Queensland as the question implies. It became operational in July 2006 as part of the restructuring of TAFE to lead product development and training delivery throughout Queensland, specifically for the automotive, building and construction, manufacturing and engineering and electrical/electronics industries. Apprentice details for 2004, 2005 and the first half of 2006 are not available because the entity in question did not exist.

Adult apprentices are defined as those being aged 21 years or over at the time of entering into the contract of training. Within the Australian Quality Training framework, adult apprentices are treated no differently from any other apprenticeship, except that different industrial issues relating to awards apply.

The question infers that apprentices gain training places by a process of application and acceptance. Apprentices, adult or otherwise, do not apply to training organisations for access to training. During the initial probationary period, the apprentice and the employer are provided with a list of all training organisations that are registered to deliver apprenticeship training in their particular trade discipline. The apprentice and employer can choose any provider that is registered to deliver the necessary training. This could be a TAFE or a private training provider; the choice rests with the employer and employee.

Under this national system commonly known as User Choice, the training provider selected by the apprentice and employer is obligated to accept the role of Supervising Registered Training Organisation (SRTTO) and to develop a training plan that meets the skills development needs and acquisition of core competencies for the trade in question. The SRTTO has no option to reject an apprenticeship training placement if they are nominated as the trainer of choice.

Overall, in Queensland, there were 11,294 apprentices in training as at 31 December 2006 who at the time of commencement were 21 years or over.