

Question on Notice

No. 546

Asked on 17 April 2007

Mr Choi asked the Minister for Education and Training and Minister for the Arts (Mr Welford)

QUESTION:

With reference to the shortage of skilled workers in Queensland, particularly in the building and construction industry –

What has been done to encourage young people to participate in training for this industry, particularly women?

ANSWER:

Our Government is committed to encouraging more young people to enter into apprenticeships and traineeships and consider trade careers. We are aiming to double the number of school-based apprenticeship and traineeship commencements across Queensland to 12 400 over the next three years. It is also anticipated that the increase in school-based apprenticeships and traineeships would see an increase in the number of young people participating in training in the building and construction industry.

From September 2002 to September 2006, the number of young people in training in the building and construction industry increased by 86 per cent. During this same period the number of young women participating in this industry increased by 106 per cent.

From September 2002 to September 2006 the number of school-based apprentices and trainees in training in the building and construction industry increased by 159 per cent. During this same period the number of young women school-based apprentices and trainees participating in this industry increased by 300 per cent.

In 2006, the Queensland Government released the *Queensland Skills Plan* to transform and modernise the vocational education and training system. Twenty four actions underpin the framework to drive the necessary reforms to help address the State's skilling needs. These actions will certainly benefit young people and women seeking to enter the building and construction industry.

My department will also provide funding of approximately \$330 000 to the Communications, Electrical and Plumbing Union (CEPU) – Plumbing Division over six financial years, starting 2006–07. The CEPU will use the funding to appoint a project manager who will actively target the recruitment of women as apprentices in the plumbing trade.

My department has increased funding to group training organisations by providing \$1000 for each female apprenticeship commencement and \$1000 for each female apprentice completion. As the building and construction industry is a major focus for group training organisations, it is anticipated that these incentives will also increase female apprentice commencements and completions in this industry.