

Question on Notice

No. 978

Asked on 8 June 2007

Ms Jones asked the Minister for Education and Training and Minister for the Arts (Mr Welford) —

QUESTION:

With reference to the skills shortage across Australia in the building and construction industry -

Will he advise what the Queensland Government is doing to encourage young people to enter the industry?

ANSWER:

Our Government is committed to encouraging more young people to enter into apprenticeships and traineeships and consider trade careers. In 2006, we released the \$1 billion *Queensland Skills Plan* to transform and modernise the vocational education and training system.

For the building and construction sector, the plan commits the Government to a new centre of excellence. This is a partnership between industry and Government to foster coordination, support leadership from within industry, and strengthen the role of employers in overcoming skills shortages. The Building and Construction Industry Training Fund has taken on the role as the centre of excellence for the industry and will trade as Construction Skills Queensland.

Encouraging young people to enter the Queensland building and construction industry remains one of the most important parts of the industry's workforce development strategy. Construction Skills Queensland and the Government are developing and implementing industry-driven strategies to promote and establish career pathways for young people in the industry. These strategies include:

- the *Doorways 2 Construction* (D2C) initiative, implemented in selected Queensland schools, is engaging industry with schools to provide employment, career choices and industry experience for young people
- the Primary School Construction Project, which aims to increase awareness of the building and construction industry among school students in Years 5, 6, and 7
- investigating the potential for a School Industry Trade Centre in civil construction to provide industry experience for young people.
- the Trade Immersion Program, a partnership between a number of Gold Coast secondary schools and Boss Homes, provides students interested in a career in the building and construction industry with opportunities to undertake their studies in an industry environment
- the *Be Constructive* marketing campaign, which is continuing to shift perceptions about the industry by promoting it as a first choice career option, incorporating TV and radio advertising, a helpline and website which promote awareness of industry's training pathways.

In the coming financial year, Construction Skills Queensland will embark on a comprehensive industry promotional campaign which will feature success stories, case studies, career brochures and road show events including try-a-trade activities. There will also be a strong presence at expos and industry events allowing direct communication with school leavers, parents, teachers and industry.

As a Government election commitment, we are also aiming to double the number of school-based apprenticeship and traineeship commencements across Queensland to 12 400 by 2009. It is anticipated that the increase in school-based apprenticeships and traineeships will see a corresponding increase in the number of young people participating in training in the building and construction industry.