

**Question on Notice
No. 87
Asked on 14 February 2008**

MRS KIERNAN asked the Minister for Public Works, Housing and Information and Communication Technology (MR SCHWARTEN)-

QUESTION:

Will he inform the House what his department is doing to overcome skills shortages in Queensland?

ANSWER:

Since July 1998, the Department of Public Works has made a substantial and ongoing contribution to the development of a skilled workforce in Queensland through the employment and training of apprentices and field trainees, graduates and administrative trainees.

Apprentices and Field Trainees

- Since July 1998, QBuild has employed approximately 1,049 apprentices and field trainees in a wide range of trades and occupations, including carpentry, plumbing, painting, electrical, refrigeration, fitting and turning, cabinet making, glazing, joinery, wood machining, shopfitting, polishing, sign writing, stonemasonry, upholstery, horticulture and construction trainees.
- Approximately 67% of QBuild's apprentices are employed in regional and rural locations, including the 2008 intake.
- On average, approximately 84% have successfully completed their apprenticeship. This compares to the industry average believed to be around 55%.

Intake	Apprentices and field trainees employed	Apprentices and field trainees successfully completed	Completion rate
2007-2008*	100	n/a	n/a
2006-2007*	101	n/a	n/a
2005-2006*	101	n/a	n/a
2004-2005*	100	n/a	n/a
2003-2004*	101	36	35.64%
Sub Total	503	36	35.64%
2002-2003	103	81	78.6%
2001-2002	102	86	84.3%
2000-2001	106	88	83.0%
1999-2000	90	77	85.6%
1998-1999	145	127	87.6%
Sub Total	546	459	84.1%
Total	1,049	495	

* Apprentices and field trainees from the 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007 and 2008 intakes are not due to complete until 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011 and 2012 respectively.

* Apprentices and field trainees from 2003-2004 will be completed during 2008 therefore the completion rate is comparatively low at this time and not included in the total percentage rate.

Indigenous Employment

- Currently there are 53 indigenous apprentices and trainees (including 7 Business Administration Trainees).
- Please note that the 2008 apprentice intake identified 13 positions for indigenous apprenticeship and traineeship appointments. However, these figures are not included in the current number of indigenous apprentices and trainees as the recruitment process is still being finalised.

Graduates

- Since July 1998, the Department of Public Works has directly employed approximately 216 graduates from a wide range of professional and technical disciplines, with particular emphasis on building and construction professionals (architects, engineers, quantity surveyors, project managers and town planners) and Information and Communication Technology (ICT) professionals.

Period	Graduates Recruited
2006-2007	35
2005-2006	45
2004-2005	26
2003-2004	16
2002-2003	22
2001-2002	20
2000-2001	19
1999-2000	12
1998-1999	21
TOTAL	216

- In addition to graduates employed within the department, the Department of Public Works currently undertakes whole-of-Government graduate recruitment and development programs for ICT graduates and for procurement graduates.
- The Queensland Government ICT Career Graduate Development Program 2007 intake successfully appointed 35 graduates to temporary A03 positions in nine Queensland Government agencies and the Brisbane City Council. The 2008 intake has successfully appointed 53 graduates to temporary A03 positions in eight Queensland Government agencies and the Brisbane City Council.
- Since 2005-2006, the Queensland Government Chief Procurement Office has recruited 38 graduates for placement in other agencies under the Procurement Professional Graduate Program.
- In 2004-2005, the Architectural Practice Academy was established by the Department of Public Works, in consultation with the Queensland Chapter of the Royal Australian Institute of Architects, as a Queensland Year of the Built Environment initiative.
- Operating as a micro-practice within Project Services, a business unit of the Department of Public Works, the Academy provides recent architectural graduates with the chance to work on real projects with clients while developing comprehensive skills relevant for registration as an architect. Each year, six graduates are temporarily appointed for two year terms.

Trainees

Since July 1998, the department has also employed approximately 445 administrative trainees.

Intake	Administrative Trainees Employed
2006-2007	40
2005-2006	55
2004-2005	44
2003-2004	42
2002-2003	55
2001-2002	52
2000-2001	55
1999-2000	46
1998-1999	56
TOTAL	445

Apprentice Intake for the Far West Region

Intake	Apprentice Type	No
1998	Nil	0
1999	4 apprentice carpenters	4
2000	1 apprentice carpenter, 1 apprentice painter, 1 apprentice plumber	3
2001	1 apprentice carpenter, 1 school based carpenter	2
2002	1 construction worker trainee	1
2003	1 apprentice carpenter, 1 apprentice painter	3
2004	2 apprentice carpenters, 1 apprentice plumber, 1 construction worker trainee	4
2005	1 apprentice carpenter, 2 school based carpenters, 1 electrical mechanic	4
2006	3 construction worker trainees	3
2007	2 apprentice carpenters, 1 school based carpenter	3
2008	1 apprentice carpenter, 1 electrical mechanic, 1 painter, 2 construction worker trainees	5
Total		32