

## Question on Notice

No. 1270

Asked on 16 September 2009

**Mr Wettenhall** asked the Minister for Education and Training (Mr Wilson) —

### QUESTION:

How many school-based apprenticeships and traineeships are being undertaken by students at schools in the Barron River Electorate and how do students benefit from these programs?

### ANSWER:

I thank the Member for his question and for his support of school-based apprenticeships and traineeships.

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School-based apprenticeship and traineeship (SAT) programs are a valuable way for high school students to get hands-on work experience and qualifications while they are still at school.

This combination of paid work, training and school study gives students great flexibility in senior schooling and help them make a smooth transition to the workforce. SATs can also give them a head start in their chosen industry by helping them gain experience and make connections within the industry.

The Next Step Survey of 2007 school leavers found that students who had participated in SATs were three times more likely to undertake apprenticeships and traineeships after leaving school than other Year 12 graduates. They were also more likely to be working full-time and less likely to be seeking work than other Year 12 graduates. Further, of the survey respondents, almost one in eight of the school leavers who had participated in SATs went on to university.

Queensland is a national leader in SAT commencements. Year to December 2008, Queensland accounted for 42% of all school based apprentice and trainee commencements in Australia.

Over the past three years students from six high schools in the Barron River electorate have taken part in school-based apprenticeship and traineeship (SAT) programs.

Overall SATs numbers have increased during this time, with 30 students participating in SATs in 2007 increasing to 62 students participating in 2009. Fourteen students participated in the school-based apprenticeship programs in 2009, up from the six who participated in these programs in 2007. Forty-eight students participated in school-based traineeship programs in 2009, up from the 24 who participated in these programs in 2007.

In 2008-09, \$54,000 was expended on these SATs through the User Choice program, which paid for their training delivery by registered training organisations.

There are many benefits of SATs for young people.

- **more variety and flexibility:** SATs provide young people with more flexibility and variety in their senior schooling. SATs can have enormous benefits for young people who want hands-on learning to supplement traditional schooling pathways.
- **a head start into a career:** young people employed as SATs develop workplace skills, knowledge, confidence and a competitive edge when applying for jobs or undertaking further study. SATs provide young people with valuable exposure to potential careers and workplaces. For some young people, SATs have led directly to full-time or part-time employment after they have completed school. SATs can reduce the time taken to complete an apprenticeship or high-level vocational qualification.

- **nationally recognised vocational qualifications:** all school-based apprentices and trainees participate in vocational training that contributes to a VET Certificate II, III or higher-level vocational qualification. These qualifications are nationally recognised by industry and employers.
- **an opportunity to learn and earn:** SATs are paid while they learn workplace skills, gain confidence, and adapt to a work environment.