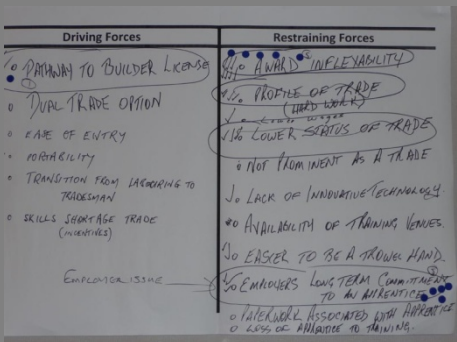


Project Title: Barriers & Drivers for Bricklaying Apprenticeships

Project Bulletin 2

April 2009



Through the Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations (DEEWR), CPSISC has been funded to undertake a project which aims to 'identify the barriers that are presently hindering the take-up of New Apprenticeships in Bricklaying and Blocklaying (i.e General Construction - Bricklaying/Blocklaying)'. CPSISC has contracted the consulting firm Altegis Group to manage the project. The Steering Group has broad industry representation and its membership can be viewed on this website. Interviews have been conducted with a number of industry and educational representatives along with forums which have now been conducted in three States.

Forums

The forum in Victoria was hosted by Holmesglen TAFE on 11 February 2009. Two sessions were conducted at the venue. The first involved a number of final year bricklaying apprentices who were asked to discuss their experiences and to identify issues relevant to the project. The second session included representation from employers, educators, industry, union and Government representatives. The forum in Brisbane was held on 4 March 2009 at the Alan Border Fields cricket ground. Once again, there was a strong turnout of RTO representatives, employers and industry groups and there was some excellent discussion. A group interview was also conducted with a number of TAFE teachers. Finally, the forum in Sydney was held on 25 March 2009 at the Rydges Hotel in Parramatta. This visit was coordinated with a trip to Granville TAFE, where the consultants were given access to interview apprentices, mature age students and teachers. The final two forums are as follows:

Perth - to be held on 6 April 2009.

Adelaide - date and venue to be advised.

Interviews

Interviews have been conducted with a range of RTO's, employers and industry representatives including the various Masonry Contractors' Associations and the CFMEU. These interviews have helped the consultants to form a comprehensive picture of the brick and blocklaying industry.

Next steps

A national survey will be sent to employers, apprentices and RTOs over the next two months to gather data on the drivers and barriers to the uptake of brick and blocklaying apprenticeships.

Anyone wishing to contribute to the project should contact Tim Powers on 03 5221 2191 or Jude Walker on 03 5263 2514.