



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 four States.

Forums

The forum in Perth was held on 6 April 2009 and was very well attended by employers, as well as representatives from public and private RTOs, Government and other agencies such as Australian Apprenticeship Centres. Some of the issues identified by forums to date as barriers to the uptake of bricklaying apprenticeships have included the perception by some that the industry does not have a 'training mentality' and that there is a lack of real understanding of the industry by outsiders. The Perth group felt that organisations such as the ABBTF and BCITF were positive factors in improving the image of the industry. The trip to Perth also involved visits to both public and private RTOs as well as meetings with apprentices. The final forum in Adelaide will be held on 29 May 2009.

Steering Committee meeting

The second meeting of the Steering Committee was held in Sydney on 20 April. The Steering Committee members discussed the results of the forums as well as the upcoming national survey.

Surveys

National surveys have now been distributed to all States to gather views on the drivers and barriers to the uptake of brick and blocklaying apprenticeships. The surveys target RTOs, apprentices, employers and bricklayers (qualified and unqualified). The surveys should be completed by the first week of June.

Next steps

Once all of the forums have been finalised and the surveys completed, the data will be analysed to identify major themes and barriers. Recommendations will be made in the final report with regard to strategies which could address some of the identified barriers.

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