

National Report

During the year to June 2014 Australian Brick & Blocklaying Training Foundation (ABBTF) achieved the following:

- Conducted an extensive recruitment program to fill apprentice vacancies with online promotion, job advertising, candidate assessment, work ready programs and onsite trials.
- Received 600 applications and enquiries regarding apprenticeship opportunities from the "You're in Demand" apprentice recruiting campaign over three months.
- 2,616 people participated in Try-a-Trade and Step Out Programs at schools as well as work ready short courses leading to an apprenticeship opportunity.
- Supported the employment and training of 1,302 apprentices with Brickstart subsidies based on satisfactory training outcomes.
- Continued a retention program to better prepare the employer and apprentice. Applied timely follow up to support both in the event of a cancellation.
- Introduced support for adult apprentice bricklayers with a \$2,000 incentive for employers to partly offset the adult pay rate cost.
- Provided financial support for 35 existing workers to have their skills assessed, enabling gap training to achieve a qualification in bricklaying.
- Attended 127 careers events and promotions to encourage young people into the trade. Many of the events included Try-a-Trade.
- Continued upgrading of websites targeting potential apprentices, bricklayers and industry to drive increased awareness and influence.
- Increased social media communication with generations Y and Z now attracting 7,800 Facebook fans.
- Distributed 30 e-newsletters and 56 blog articles to inform the market and the trade on bricklaying topics and ABBTF activities.
- Supported quality apprentices competing at WorldSkills competitions at regional, national and international level.
- Introduced a scholarship to support the training and preparation of the Australian WorldSkills bricklaying competitor for the 2015 international WorldSkills competition.
- Commenced a Builder Best Practice program to identify industry views on the quality of current bricklaying practices.
- Received authorisation from the ACCC to continue to apply a small levy on the sale of clay bricks and concrete masonry products with a matching contribution from manufacturers for a further 10 years.
- Supported bricklaying's reinstatement to the Skills Occupation List to enable permanent skilled migration with an ABBTF submission supported by industry.

OPERATING RESULTS	2013/14 Nos.	2012/13 Nos.	FINANCIAL RESULTS	2013/14 \$000's	2012/13 \$000's
Step Out Program Students	2,616	1,706	Revenue	4,248	4,102
Apprentices in Training	2,042	2,271	Total Expenditure	3,950	3,848
ABBTF Supported Apprentices	1,302	1,510	Operating Surplus	298	254
ABBTF Supported Commencements	595	628	Training Reserve	2,255	1,957
ABBTF Supported Completions	478	521	Apprentice Subsidies to Employers	1,369	1,198
Bricklayer RPL Support	35	172	Training Support	450	369
TAFE Colleges and RTO's	56	56	Step Out Program	294	367
Group Training Organisations	46	43	Promotion	337	463
Careers Expo Events Attended	127	134	Development	832	775
Peak Monthly Website Visits	8,308	7,743	Administration	668	676

The full Statutory Annual Report will be available on the website or hardcopy on request.

Geoff Noble
 Chief Executive Officer
 13 August 2014