

National Report

During the year to June 2013 Australian Brick & Blocklaying Training Foundation (ABBTF) achieved the following:

- Supported the employment and training of 1,510 apprentices with Brickstart subsidies based on satisfactory training outcomes.
- Made final subsidy payments to employers of 521 apprentices completing their training.
- Provided a Brickstart bonus and Recommencement bonus to boost apprentice sign ups and improve retention.
- Continued our retention program to better prepare the employer and apprentice and used timely follow up to support both in the event of a cancellation.
- More than 1,706 secondary school students participated in ABBTF Step Out Programs and 1,404 participated in Try-a-Trade events at schools, gaining hands-on experience in bricklaying.
- Provided financial support for 172 existing workers to have their skills assessed, to enable gap training to achieve a qualification in bricklaying.
- Attended 134 careers events and promotions to encourage young people into the trade. Many of the events included Try-a-Trade.
- Surveyed more than 550 bricklaying contractors to uncover the challenges of employing an apprentice.
- Created a strategic plan which identified six key operational strategies to be implemented over the next five years.
- Committed to mentoring bricklaying apprentices through the retention call contacts, first year placements, contact in the field and referrals to MBA, HIA and MEGT mentoring programs.
- Incorporated Bricklayer Training Australia as a Registered Training Organisation to supplement national training capacity in bricklaying.
- Planned pre-entry pilot program in bricklaying through Bricklayer Training Australia to improve the quality of new apprentices and retention rates.
- Maintained online communications with almost 6,000 industry and student visits monthly through our websites. Re-launched the ABBTF website to provide bricklayers with information and benefits of employing an apprentice.
- Distributed 28 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.

OPERATING RESULTS	2012/13 Nos.	2011/12 Nos.	FINANCIAL RESULTS	2012/13 \$000's	2011/12 \$000's
Step Out Program Students	1,706	1,848	Revenue	4,102	4,467
ABBTF Supported Commencements	628	632	Total Expenditure	3,848	3,725
Apprentices Supported by ABBTF	1,510	1,923	Operating Surplus	254	742
Completions Supported by ABBTF	521	456	Training Reserve	1,957	1,703
Apprentices in Training	2,271	2,533	App Subsidies to Employers	1,198	1,098
Bricklayer RPL Support	172	38	Training Support	369	509
TAFE Colleges and RTO's	56	57	Step Out Program	367	355
Group Training Organisations	43	54	Promotion	463	432
Careers Expo Events Attended	134	126	Development	775	731
Peak Monthly Website Hits	7,743	5,863	Administration	676	599

Geoff Noble,
 Chief Executive Officer
 12 August 2013

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