

MEDIA RELEASE

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APPRENTICESHIPS QUEENSLAND AND TAFE QUEENSLAND LAUNCH NEW INITIATIVE

Apprenticeships Queensland and TAFE Queensland today announced a new initiative to deliver practical, hands-on construction training and work experience in the Ipswich region.

Apprenticeships Queensland (AQ) has purchased a residential property which school-based apprentices, employed by AQ, and students undertaking a Certificate I in Construction will renovate.

The General Manager of AQ, Paul Hillberg, explained that the initiative was designed to provide valuable and much needed experience to participants wanting to start a trade.

“We began this initiative to provide local Ipswich school students with some real life work experience that construction employers desire, but is often so hard to obtain,” said Mr Hillberg.

“Our training partner TAFE Queensland and volunteer mentors and supervisors from the Men’s Shed Ipswich make this a truly community focused project.”

“Our first school-based apprentices and students start the renovation today, with the sale of the property planned for mid-2017.”

Mr Hillberg further explained that in addition to AQ employees who would be onsite each day, the project would be employing 10 school-based carpentry apprentices, five school-based painting apprentices, and a further 20 construction students, who will work different days.

TAFE Queensland South West General Manager Brent Kinnane said they were delighted to be part of this initiative, along with TAFE Queensland SkillsTech, which will help young people in the local community gain in-demand, job-ready skills to develop their careers.

“This initiative will allow many students to gain valuable experience who might not otherwise have the opportunity,” said Mr Kinnane.

“Gaining a qualification and work experience in construction will help these students gain an edge when applying for future jobs or apprenticeships, open up pathways to further study, and provide new career opportunities.”

For more information about the initiative please contact Apprenticeships Queensland on (07) 333 95 333.

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TAFE Queensland Media Contact

Grace Callan | TAFE Queensland South West, Communications Officer

P: (07) 4694 1502 | M: 0439 254 330 | E: Grace.Callan@tafe.qld.edu.au | RTO 0526

Apprenticeships Queensland Media Contact

Paul Hillberg | Apprenticeships Queensland, General Manager

M: 0409 346 095