

Blair Boyer MP
Minister for Education, Training and Skills

Thursday 21 July 2022

Supporting young South Australians in a construction career

The South Australian Government is making it easier for young people to pursue a career in the state's construction industry.

The Malinauskas Labor Government is pleased to partner with a range of organisations to help promote and grow the construction industry that makes a significant contribution to the state's economy as the third largest industry in terms of employment and gross value.

As part of a range of initiatives, the Minister has approved the Construction Industry Training Board (CITB) offering free driving lessons for eligible apprentices.

Eligible school students and first year apprentices will have access to up to 10 free instructor led driving lessons.

This will help to overcome what can be a barrier to gaining trade employment.

The State Government has also committed \$1 million over four years to the Master Builders Association to deliver its youth outreach program to help support the wellbeing of those in trades.

The Born to Build program sees field officers visit secondary schools, vocational colleges, adult community education sites, career expos, sporting clubs, and other community spaces to encourage greater awareness of, and participation in, trade apprenticeships relating to the construction industry.

The National Skills Commission is projecting that the construction industry will be one of the top contributing industries to employment growth over the five years to November 2026.

For South Australia's construction industry, 75,400 people were employed over the year to May 2022.

Quotes attributable to Blair Boyer

We know the local construction industry is currently in demand, and with this demand, comes plenty of opportunities for job seekers with the right attitude and skills.

The Malinauskas Labor Government is proud to support industry with innovative initiatives, such as support for people gaining their licences to secure employment or the Born to Build program which has a focus on diversifying the construction industry, by targeting women and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people for these opportunities.

It is estimated that by 2028, there could be an additional 8,000 to 13,000 jobs available.

This is crucial to the future of South Australia's economy, as we need to continue addressing our skills shortages and ensuring we can meet the needs of South Australian industries by providing people with the skills businesses need.

Quotes attributable to Chief Executive Officer of Master Builders SA, Will Frogley

Anyone who has needed a tradie recently knows they are in short supply.

Born to Build will also give thousands of young South Australians a sense of purpose and a well-paid, rewarding career in an industry that is crucial for our economy and quality of life.

Quotes attributable to Acting Chief Executive Officer of the CITB, Holly Willcox

It is important the building and construction industry works collaboratively with the State Government to help secure its workforce needs, now and into the future.

School students and first year apprentices often face barriers to gaining their drivers licence, particularly with the ability to afford or access instructor led driving lessons.