

17 February 2011

Beating the skills crunch with HIA training scholarships

The Housing Industry Association (HIA) has awarded 30 young Australians from across Australia thousands of dollars in training scholarships to tackle mounting skills shortages crippling the residential building industry.

Last year HIA, in partnership with JELD-WEN Australia and supported by STRATCO, launched the *HIA Build Your Future* program – an industry-driven initiative supporting apprentices and young tradespeople.

As part of the program, individual scholarships worth up to \$7000 were awarded to Australians aged 25 and under currently working as an apprentice, employee or contractor in residential building.

HIA Managing Director Shane Goodwin congratulated the winners (see full list below). "They will set a fine example for other young people in our industry who recognise the need to continually strive to improve their skills," Mr Goodwin said. "HIA and its partners are pleased to be able to support these young Australians in their endeavours."

"As our workforce ages and fewer apprentices join our industry, it's crucial that we keep striving to equip up-and-coming generations with the skills, knowledge and encouragement to build our future homes. Increasing our skilled workforce will also help address mounting housing shortages – we are currently under-building by about 20,000 homes nationally each year," Mr Goodwin said.

JELD-WEN Australia's Director of Marketing Bruce Tosello said widespread flood devastation across Queensland, NSW and Victoria had also exacerbated the need for skilled workers. "We are reminded that building and construction is the engine room of the Australian economy," Mr Tosello said. "As we work to repair the lives and communities of those affected by the tragic floods, we must have an ongoing supply of qualified trades people coming through the ranks."

"The cost of training towards getting a trade licence can often be very expensive. These scholarships provide the financial means to help young Australians get the right qualifications, business skills and better prepare themselves towards a successful future," Mr Tosello said.

The candidates were chosen from a list of almost 100 applicants. Nominees were asked what career aspirations they had and how they would use the new skills acquired from the scholarship.

"It was rewarding to see so many nominees wanting to advance their skills with the ultimate goal to independently operate their own business in the residential building industry," Mr Goodwin said. "Many also expressed the importance of providing quality workmanship and service, as well as the need for environmental responsible housing."

A full list of scholarship winners is below. To learn more about the *HIA Build Your Future Program* visit <http://hia.com.au/buildyourfuture/> and associated Facebook page at <http://www.facebook.com/buildyourfuture>

For further information:

Shane Goodwin, HIA Managing Director, 0418 568 990.

Nassim Khadem, HIA Director National Communications and Media, 0407 772 322.



MEDIA RELEASE

2011 HIA Training Scholarship Award Winners

For further information about the winners, please contact Nassim Khadem on 0407 772 322.

ACT

Dayne Tidswell, Bonython, ACT
Brendan O'Toole, Waramanga, ACT

NSW

Joshua Roe, Nobbys Creek, NSW
Benjamin Lipski, Gordon, NSW
Nicholas Kellie, Pennant Hills, NSW
Michael Kezovski, Blackbutt, NSW
Lonny Nourse, South Windsor, NSW
Toby Joyce, Waitara, NSW

HUNTER

Jari Mowatt-Penna, Cessnock, HUNTER
Brenton Pearce, Bateau Bay, HUNTER
Lee Stevens, Wallsend, HUNTER

QUEENSLAND

Zac Norris, Upper Coomera, QLD
Benjamin Watkins, Bundaberg, QLD
Myles Arber, Ransome, QLD
Daniel Chapman, Kings Beach, QLD
Jayde Bowman, Burleigh, QLD
Jordan Nugent, Garbutt, QLD
Nicholas Maher, Arana Hills, QLD
Daniel Jefferies, Burleigh Heads, QLD

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Carlo Simpson, Adelaide, SA
Sam Ryan, Clearview, SA
Ryan Menz, Keith, SA
Scott Norton, Aberfoyle Park, SA
Christopher Seery, Woodville West, SA

TASMANIA

Alex Turner, Mowbray, TAS

VICTORIA

Steven Patching, Mount Eliza, VIC
Matthew Lewis, East Warburton, VIC
Andrew Goulopoulos, Docklands VIC
Terry Lake, Frankston, VIC

WEST AUSTRALIA

Matthew Parente, Morley, WA