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MEDIA RELEASE

Apprentice Numbers Down In Key States

A report released by NCVET today confirms the message that HIA members have been emphasising for some time that apprentice numbers in the industry have been in decline in a number of key states.

As of June 2010, apprentice and trainee employment in Western Australia is down 15.1 per cent compared with the pre GFC June 2008 figure, similarly Queensland is down 17.9 per cent.

HIA Executive Director – Industry Workforce Development, Nick Proud said today that as the resource sector gathers momentum it is in these states in particular that apprenticeships and skilled construction worker numbers are critical.

“The residential sector apprenticeship in construction provides the kindergarden for carpenters, electricians and general trades that will be needed in the resource sector states,” Mr Proud said.

“As the skilled trades in these states get cherry picked into resource driven construction projects, focus on the next generation of skilled trades needs to be a priority for programs such as the \$200m Critical Skills Investment Fund.

“The latest HIA-Austral Bricks Trades Report indicated that nine out of twelve occupational areas including carpentry and bricklaying are in short supply and a reducing pool of new apprentices in these particular states will not assist in filling the shortage gaps that the resources states will need.

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