
More Tasmanians Starting Apprenticeships

Parliamentary Secretary to the Premier Heather Butler said today Tasmania was leading the nation in the number of people beginning apprenticeships and traineeships particularly in traditional trades.

Ms Butler said the latest National Centre for Vocational Education Research figures showed those starting apprenticeships and traineeships in traditional trades rose by almost 26 per cent compared to a national rise of around nine per cent.

"It is very encouraging to see Tasmania continuing to grow faster than the national average in the critical skills shortage area of traditional trades," Ms Butler said.

Ms Butler said the number of people starting apprenticeships and traineeships in Tasmania increased by over 10 per cent from 7800 in June 2007 to 8600 in June 2008.

"Nationally the figure rose by seven per cent to 290,100."

"The number of people in training in Tasmania as at June 30 this year reached 13,500 an increase of 600 from 2007 figures.

Ms Butler said the number of Tasmanians completing apprenticeships and traineeships rose by 6.5 per cent to 4900 in June 2008 compared to a 3.6 per cent rise nationally.

"These statistics are welcome news and show that Tasmania is on the right track to address skills shortages.

"Initiatives like the Tasmanian Skills Strategy and Tasmania Tomorrow will help us continue to provide opportunities for people to up-skill and undertake training that is relevant to their needs," Ms Butler said.