



Heather Butler, MP

Parliamentary Secretary to the Premier

Thursday, 7 May 2009

Apprentices Welcomed Into Workforce

Northern Tasmania will gain highly-skilled tradespeople in a variety of industries following the graduation tonight of 90 apprentices from the Tasmanian Skills Institute in Launceston.

The graduates will be officially welcomed into the workforce by Parliamentary Secretary to the Premier Heather Butler at a trades celebration ceremony at the Hotel Grand Chancellor.

Ms Butler said investments in major infrastructure projects announced recently meant that skilled tradespeople were in high demand.

“In recent weeks we have seen hundreds of millions of dollars in infrastructure investment announced around the State,” Ms Butler said.

The graduates are from a variety of industries including automotive, building construction & allied trades, electrotechnology, hair & beauty, metal trades, natural resources and commercial cookery.

“By mid-June more than 1100 apprentices will have graduated from the Tasmanian Skills Institute.”

“These graduates will form a ready-made workforce to meet Tasmania’s growing needs.”

“The increase in infrastructure investment affects not only the construction trades but all areas due to the increased working population, who will require other services such as hairdressers and chefs.”

Ms Butler said the Tasmanian Skills Institute provided a vital link between apprentices, employers and their training.

“The Tasmanian Skills Institute provides opportunities for apprentices from all over the State to gain vital skills.”

“By working with the employer and the apprentice, the Tasmanian Skills Institute can tailor a training model to suit both their needs, whether the focus is on on-the-job or institutional based training,” Ms Butler said.

The Tasmanian Skills Institute commenced operations on January 2 this year following the State Government’s reform of post year-10 education.