

media release



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No uni offer? Try a trade and earn while you learn

Learning a trade in the building and construction industry is a great option for VCE graduates considering their future as VTAC uni offers are released today, say the Master Builders Association of Victoria.

Master Builders Executive Director Brian Welch said the best thing about studying a trade is you can earn while you learn and don't have to pay-back a HECs debt.

"Apprentices get paid to earn while they learn and after completing a four year apprenticeship they can expect to be earning \$50-60,000 a year," he said.

"Melbourne is growing by 1500 people per week, driving demand for need for new and renovated homes - so plenty of secure long-term job opportunities exist.

"Traditional trades identified as being in short supply by the National Skills Needs List (NSNL) include carpentry, joinery, plumbing, gas fitting, bricklaying, roofing, and painting.

"According to Skills Victoria, each year over 3,600 people commence apprenticeships in the general construction sector.

"Average weekly earnings in the industry amounted to \$1,215 Australia wide and over 86 per cent of workers in Victoria were employed on a full-time basis.

"A career in building and construction can be extremely rewarding both financially and personally. At the end of the day you can see what you have achieved. Many apprentices go on to be successful small business owners and become their own boss," he said.

High school graduates or parents interested in more information about the sector can contact the Master Builders Association of Victoria's careers team on 9411 4555 or visiting www.mbav.com.au

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