

AITC apprentice fits out Louis Vuitton and Tag Heuer shops

A ITC apprentice Jayden Wood, who is currently signed up with Project Queensland (PQ) was recently named ASOFIA, (Australian Shop & Office Fitting Industry Association), Queensland Apprentice of the Year. Projects Queensland (PQ) now in its 26th year of operation is a high-end shopfitting, cabinet making, architectural joinery, project management and interior fitout business committed to the training, mentoring and development of apprentices who join the company. PQ's Production Manager Russell Baker who is also a Member of the AITC said the college has a fantastic record of success in the training of young people across a wide range of trades. "Jayden's award exemplified PQ and AITC's dedication to the skilled training of young people", enthused Russell Baker. The announcement of Jayden's award was made at ASOFIA's 2015



annual conference held in Hobart. At the conference PQ also received awards for - Best Interior Fitout over \$1M for the Louis Vuitton Brisbane expansion, Best Commercial Interior Fitout for Sunland

head office Brisbane, Queensland Interior Fitout of the Year for TAG Heuer Brisbane and Best use of the Sponsor's Product (Laminex) for the Louis Vuitton Brisbane Expansion. . ■

2015 starts strongly

As we settle into another year at the AITC, it's great to see that our young people are steadily offered apprenticeships. Apprenticeship signups for the first half of this year

have increased by 16% compared to the same time last year. This increase in sign ups can be attributed to two factors:

- The effectiveness of our inaugural Industry Quickstart (IQ) Program offered

last year led to the readiness to work of the young people who took part in the Program and

- The increased demand from employers for apprentices as a result of improved conditions in industry due to lower interest rates and the subsequent increase in housing prices, building approvals and building commencements.

The three largest employing occupations in Construction in 2014 were:-

- Carpentry
- Joiners/Shopfitting
- Electrical

Childcare is a new trade that is showing a strong surge in demand. Since 2013 when the College signed up its first young person into a Childcare traineeship, the demand for Childcare trainees has increased by 300%.

2015 is shaping up to once again successfully meet the trend at the College – Since the first graduating students in 2007, over 90% of AITC students have graduated with a fulltime apprenticeship. ■

