

Careers Corner



GOT A TRADE WEEK

FACT: There are now **148,000 apprentices and industry trainees** in over **140 trades and services**.

They are: building, repairing, restoring, manufacturing, farming, producing, processing, cooking, serving, hosting, entertaining, beautifying, caring, coaching, and supporting.

FACT: There are more apprentices and trainees than university students, and New Zealand still needs more, due to skills shortages in many industries and regions.

Trainees and apprentices learn on-the-job and get paid while they get qualified, rather than rack up student loans.

Got A Trade? Got It Made! Week - 21 to 27 August 2017

"We want young people to know about the massive range of job opportunities that offer the chance to 'earn and learn'," says Industry Training Federation Chief Executive Josh Williams. "You can get paid and get qualified, and launch successful careers without racking up a student loan."

Got a Trade! week began on Monday 21 August, and celebrated 148,000 apprentices and industry trainees who work every day in over 140 trades and services.

"While three out of ten school leavers go to university, ten out of ten will need jobs," says Mr Williams. "The number of apprentices and industry trainees now exceeds the number of university students, and this growth is set to continue."

"New Zealand is crying out for more apprentices: There are major skills shortages in industries such as building and construction, manufacturing, infrastructure, automotive, retail, aged care, community support, electro-technology, the list goes on."

'More apprenticeships' will be a catch cry this election campaign, with Government targets and opposition policies looking to grow the numbers of traineeships and apprenticeships.

"Employing young people in growing industries is a win-win. Training on-the-job develops the right skills at the right time, and individual growth translates into the regional and economic growth the country needs," says Mr Williams.

"Trades are the way of the future and trades are what keep this country moving," says Auckland print apprentice and Got a Trade! hero, Frank Uati. "What a good way to see the world. You earn while you learn, you've got a qualification that's internationally recognised, and there's no fees, no loan."

Plasterer Rikki Dewes left school at 16 to find a trade, and went on to become apprentice of the year in both New Zealand and Australia, and Got a Trade! hero. His advice to young people is, if you want to own your own home, car and "toys", as he now does, become an apprentice. **Because skills become careers that can take you where you want to be.**

Jacqueline Guile, Careers-Gateway-STAR