

CONSTRUCTION TRAINING COUNCIL COVID-19 UPDATE – MAY 2020

Industry training councils provide a direct link between Western Australian industry and the State Training Board. This infographic summarises industry feedback to the training council in March to May 2020.

JOBS LOST/IDLED*

Apprentices and trainees
Residential, commercial and civil
construction workers



JOBS IN DEMAND*

*Between March - May 2020 there were redundancies, suspensions, terminations or reduced hours.

*Between March - May 2020 there was increased demand for workers or increased hours for existing workers.

IMPACT OF GOVERNMENT INITIATIVES



INCREASED FUNDING

- The CTF has recently released the COVID-19 Relief Package for construction apprentices.
- A large construction company employs 78 apprentices and initially did not qualify for the JobKeeper scheme due to the size of its business. Based on feedback from industry, the JobKeeper scheme has now recognised all GTOs including this company.
- GTOs value government funding on offer, but are struggling to manage the implementation of the funding.



ESSENTIAL SERVICE

- The construction sector appreciates being classified as an essential service. CTF and Industry Associations continue to promote safe work practices to the workforce.
- However, the broader economic downturn resulting from COVID-19 means some work will not go ahead.
- Industry reports that the recent announcements from the Federal Government outlining the three phases to return to work are encouraging signs.
- The construction industry was a critical sector to reignite the economy in post Global Financial Crises and strategies are already underway for the sector to kickstart the economy post COVID-19.

CTF RECOMMENDATIONS



GTO FUNDING

- CTF recommends additional government funding for GTOs, as they may provide opportunities through their industry network for apprentices to complete their training.
- They may also provide mentoring.



ASSIST APPRENTICES

- The government could assist apprentice retention and completion by waiving, reducing or deferring TAFE fees.
- Apprentices could also be allowed to complete their off-the-job training during the downturn, returning to on-the-job training when work picks up.



WA EMPLOYER INCENTIVE

- Recipients of CTF grants could also be eligible for the Jobs and Skills WA Employer Incentive Scheme.

ASSISTING DISPLACED WORKERS



COVID-19 SKILLS MATCHING PLAN

- CTF may develop a COVID-19 skills matching plan to identify where displaced workers and apprentices can move into other areas of construction experiencing high demand, such as civil construction.



APPRENTICES AND TRAINEES

- Apprentices and trainees are being returned to GTOs by host employers. CTF has set up an Industry Working Group to review funding processes to support host employers in retaining their apprentices and trainees.
- CTF has requested DTWD consider temporarily reallocating suspended and at-risk apprentices to contractors for government projects (e.g. Metronet).

“In previous downturns (such as the Global Financial Crisis), the construction industry has been a key driver for economic recovery and relied on GTOs for support.”