

Media Release

MBAWA launches the FutureBuild Academy to boost workforce

13 October 2025

Western Australia is experiencing a critical shortage of qualified trades and Master Builders WA is determined to be part of the solution.

New National Centre for Vocational Education Research data shows construction apprenticeship starts in WA dropped by 0.8 per cent over the year to March 2025 – highlighting that more must be done to encourage young people to take up a trade.

The FutureBuild Academy, a new group training initiative by Master Builders Western Australia, aims to attract new apprentices to a career in building and construction through a mix of improved workplace conditions, personal development opportunities and a focus on apprentice mental health.

MBAWA CEO Matt Moran said the program's launch this week represents a major step forward in addressing workforce shortages in the building and construction industry.

"FutureBuild is more than a training pathway; it's a commitment to train the next generation of master builders," said Mr Moran.

"We need more skilled workers in WA to have any chance of building the large number of houses required in our state."

"The FutureBuild Academy will deliver high-quality apprentices, because they will work alongside and learn from those who are best-placed to train them: our members and other industry-leading businesses."

"It's about giving apprentices the support they need, mentors they can look up to, and the chance to thrive in one of Western Australia's most vital industries."

The group training organisation will also make it easier for employers, who often carry the administrative burden and financial risks associated with hiring and training an apprentice.

"Hiring an apprentice directly can be a time-consuming process, especially for small businesses who are already under the pump. For employers, engaging an apprentice or trainee through a GTO like FutureBuild allows them and the apprentice to just get on with the job," said Mr Moran.

For one builder, FutureBuild is very close to the heart.

Robert Shaw, who is the co-founder of building company Daly & Shaw, an MBAWA board member and the Chairman of the FutureBuild Academy, started his apprenticeship with Master Builders NSW as a teenager.

“A GTO like FutureBuild is where my journey in building and construction started, as an apprentice carpenter in Regional NSW,” said Mr Shaw.

“FutureBuild will help future-proof our industry. By giving apprentices the opportunity to explore the building and construction industry, we’ll be creating more well-rounded and experienced tradies who are more likely to stay in industry for the long-term.”

Mr Moran agrees.

“We know this model of training works, with Master Builders GTOs across the country achieving an average completion rate of about 80 per cent, compared to the national average of 54.1 per cent,” said Mr Moran.

“We don’t just need to attract more apprentices to the industry; we need to ensure they complete their apprenticeship and then keep working in their trade for decades to come. FutureBuild is an important first step in achieving this.”

“FutureBuild is currently recruiting for Carpentry & Joinery apprentices on Seek, and we are also accepting expressions of interest from would-be host employers now via our website.”

“Please reach out to us if you are interested in becoming an apprentice or taking one under your wing. It is more important than ever as we try to deal with WA’s housing crisis.”

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About FutureBuild Academy

A Master Builders WA initiative, FutureBuild Academy is a Group Training Organisation specialising in building and construction trades. A Master Builders WA membership is not required to become a host employer, although member discounts are available.

About Master Builders WA

Master Builders services the needs of the entire building and construction industry, from residential to commercial, and civil engineering businesses, principal contractors to subcontractors, manufacturers and suppliers. We assist members by providing access to a wide range of specialised services, an impressive degree of recognition, as well as representation to government and industry. Master Builders also serves the Western Australian public by fostering best practice work standards.

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For more information or further comment, please contact:

Jessica Hladin – Brand, Marketing & Communications Specialist

E: jessica.h@mbawa.com | P: (08) 9476 9824