

# Media Release

## GTO boost will help build more homes

20 March 2026

Master Builders WA has welcomed the State Government’s announcement to boost the Group Training Organisation (GTO) Wage Subsidy Program.

Increasing investment in the program is critical to grow our building and construction workforce.

“A \$19.6 million commitment for an additional 330 places for apprentices and trainees will help incentivise employers to take on new workers which the industry desperately needs,” said Master Builders WA CEO Matt Moran.

“This works out at 205 places funded at 50%, 75 places funded at 75% and an additional 50 places dedicated to women in electrical, also funded at 75%.”

“If we don’t grow our workforce, we won’t be able to build enough homes to meet the demand.”

“WA is experiencing a critical shortage of tradies and this investment to help more employers cover wages for apprentices and trainees, is a step in the right direction.”

“MBAWA has been working with the State Government on innovative policy initiatives including more funding for the GTO Wage Subsidy Program as well as guaranteeing allocations for building and construction apprenticeships in high-demand trades.”

“Our message to government was simple but powerful.”

“If the building and construction industry is to meet the demand for housing, commercial projects and infrastructure development over the next 4 years, the GTO Wage Subsidy Program had to be expanded. Our industry employs more apprentices and trainees than any other.”

Importantly, small and medium enterprises, which represent over 90% of the building and construction sector, can engage with a GTO to become a host employer for apprentices and trainees.

MBAWA is determined to be part of the solution, and recently launched the FutureBuild Academy, a new GTO that aims to attract new apprentices to a career in building and construction.

FutureBuild Academy Chairman and Master Builders Australia National President, Robert Shaw, said that FutureBuild will help future-proof the 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,” said Mr Shaw.

“With the rise of artificial intelligence, it’s also worthwhile considering what jobs will look like in the future – and while AI might be threatening white collar jobs, it can’t replace your local tradie.”

Mr Moran said that a strong building and construction industry is essential to ensure the state’s continued economic growth and success.

“This year’s State Budget is critical, and housing must remain front and centre as a priority.”

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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. If you are interested in an apprenticeship or taking on an apprentice, please reach out to the FutureBuild Academy.*

### **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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