

MEDIA RELEASE

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INNOVATIVE “HANDS ON” TRAINING PROGRAM INSPIRING STUDENTS TO EMBRACE CAREERS IN STATE’S CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY

An innovative hands-on training program at a northern suburbs high school in Adelaide is teaching students the crucial skills required to work in the state’s burgeoning construction industry.

The Doorways 2 Construction (D2C) program based at Salisbury High School involves students from a number of secondary schools in Adelaide’s north renovating a rundown Housing SA home over the course of their school year.

The unique collaboration between the Construction Industry Training Board of SA (CITB), the Department of Education and Childhood Development (DECD) and the Department of State Development (DSD) teaches students a raft of trade skills including carpentry, painting & decorating, plumbing, electrical, tiling, plaster-boarding, concreting and bricklaying.

While the program is based at Salisbury High School, students from 10 other nearby schools also participate in the program.

This year, 71 students participated in the program – 48 Year 11 students and 23 Year 12 students refitting a three bedroom Housing SA home at Elizabeth Park.

“The power of our D2C program is that it positively impacts the lives of the young people who participate in it,” CITB Chief Executive Officer, Ms Marie Paterson, said today.

“For many of the students, D2C is their first experience with anything to do with the construction industry and plays a significant role in career pathway they wish to take,” she said.

“The program also provides the construction industry with students who are apprenticeship ready.

“The commitment from CITB in collaboration with DECD and DSD delivers an effective way of encouraging the next generation of construction industry workers, while delivering a fully renovated house back to the local community.”

The D2C program is South Australia’s premier Vocational Education and Training (VET) in schools program for the building and construction industry.

Its main objective is to create greater awareness of the building and construction industry among young people and teach them the skills necessary to successfully seek work in the industry.



Students complete the course with “job ready” qualifications – a D2C™ Certificate I or II - Construction for Year 11 students and a partial Certificate III D2C™ Plus for Year 12 students.

Each student completes 15 days of work placement learning trade skills and carrying out work under the supervision of a licensed tradesperson while being mentored by CITB and government officials and obtaining career advice.

“Renovating the house as part of the Doorways program has given me a new perspective of building and has made learning interesting, “ said Mikayla McKeown, 16, a D2C participant and student from Kurna Plains High School.

“This has helped me focus more on my school work and getting through my SACE.”

D2C participant and student from Para Hills High School, Marley Rigney, said: “The Doorways program is helping me get my SACE and gives me knowledge and skills I can use in the future,”.

“This has given me more confidence at school and working in a team.”

Doorways 2 Construction Project Manager, Mr Richard Megaw, said: “D2C gives students the opportunity to explore construction trades while at school and gain SACE accreditation.

“It helps students to prepare for working life by giving them the opportunity to experience construction skills and knowledge first hand and highlights a range of career opportunities.”

CITB Executive Manager Operations, Mark Gosden, said: “Students gain skills and experience that help them to prepare for a construction apprenticeship.

“Experience in the program provides students with real insights into what is expected in a trade and what they can achieve by gaining a trade qualification.”

Now in its 17th year, D2C is one of the largest and most successful programs of its kind in Australia.

Since its inception, more than 8700 students have completed the program.

D2C operates in 41 schools across the state with over 1000 students participating in the program each year.

This year’s program at Salisbury High School involved students from Craigmores High School, Gawler & District College, Kurna Plains School, Mark Oliphant College, Northern Adelaide Senior College, Para Hills High School, Parafield Gardens High School, Paralowie R-12 School, Playford International School and Salisbury East High School.



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About the CITB

The CITB is a whole-of-industry led organisation that brings together employers, unions and government representatives to support the South Australian building and construction industry by providing leadership in training and skills development for its workforce

The CITB collects a levy of 0.25% (1/400th) of the value of Building and Construction work in South Australia over \$40,000 and uses the fund to:

- Provide access to subsidised training for apprentices their employers and workers in the industry.
- Promote and support careers in construction.
- Advise the SA Government on industry training.
- Support training innovation research and planning.
- Attract our future workforce through vocational training in schools by supporting the doorways2construction program.

Last year, the CITB oversaw more than \$12.9 million in construction worker upskilling.



