

## Gilbert Jewel

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**From:** Kim Richardson [kim.richardson@mbawa.com]  
**Sent:** Friday, 6 February 2004 3:58 PM  
**To:** adjudication@accc.gov.au  
**Subject:** Application for authorisation lodged by the Clay Brick & Paver Institute for itself and on behalf of the Concrete Masonry Association of Australia  
**Importance:** High

Please find attached a joint submission provided by the West Australian Group Training Scheme Inc and Skill Hire Pty. Ltd. in connection with the above application.

The Master Builders Association of WA has forwarded this electronic copy of the submission to the ACCC on behalf of both group apprenticeship schemes given they are members of our association.

We are arranging for a signed copy of the submission to be sent to the ACCC next week.

Should there be any enquires about the submission please refer them to the undersigned.

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Industrial Relations Manager  
MBAWA

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## Apprentice Training Subsidies

As many contractors are aware, the federal and state governments offer employers who engage direct indentured building trades apprentices subsidies to assist them in meeting some of the employment costs of these apprentices.

Some employers who have direct indentured apprentices may not be aware of all the subsidies that they are able to claim or of the recent increase in the BCITF subsidy.

To assist members, the MBA provides the following information about direct indentured apprentice subsidies.

### What are the employer subsidies and who pays them?

The apprentice subsidies are set out below:

<b><i>Department of Education, Science &amp; Training</i></b>	<b><i>Building &amp; Construction Industry Training Fund (BCITF)</i></b>
On commencement of apprenticeship <b>\$1,650</b>	On registration of apprenticeship <b>\$3,000</b>
	On successful completion of off the job training <b>\$3,000</b>
On completion of apprenticeship <b>\$2,750</b>	On completion of apprenticeship <b>\$3,000</b>
<b>Total: \$4,400</b>	<b>\$9,000</b>

As employers will see from the above table they can claim a total of \$13,400 over the term of an apprenticeship for a directly indentured apprentice.

Other incentives apply and can be claimed from the Department of Education, Science & Training where the apprentice may be from a disadvantaged group, a female working in a non-traditional trade and those in the country regions which have a designated trade shortage.

A living away from home allowance may also be payable to an apprentice in the first and second year where the apprentice has to leave home to take up a trade. For example, where an apprentice leaves a country region to take up an apprenticeship in a regional centre or major city.

### Where can employers claim these subsidies?

Employers wanting to know more about how to claim these funds should call:

- ✓ WA Department of Education & Training – 131 954
- ✓ BCITF – 9381 9000
- ✓ A New Apprenticeship Centre (NAC) – Freecall 1800 639 629

### Changes to BCITF subsidies

The BCITF has increased its subsidy to employers of direct indentured apprentices by increasing it from \$7000 to \$9000 as from 1/1/2004 for current and new apprentices. This increase will see an equalisation with the subsidy provided to apprentices in building industry group training schemes by 1/7/2004.

The MBA has for some years argued for the equalisation of the BCITF subsidy paid to employers of direct indentured apprentices and to the building industry group training schemes given the latter had enjoyed a financial advantage for some time.

Whilst the BCITF did reduce this inequity in funding arrangements, this latest development is a welcome move.

In addition to the increased subsidies payable to employers of direct indentured apprentices has been the Fund's decision to expand the range of apprentices that qualify for the BCITF subsidy. Additional trades now include:

- mechanical refrigeration fitting
- sheet metal work
- 1<sup>st</sup> class welding – fabrication
- boiler making – construction
- cabinet making

The MBA also welcomes the inclusion of these trades qualifying for the BCITF subsidy given they are often directly linked to the building and construction industry and form a major part of construction work.

Kim Richardson  
INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS MANAGER