

Case Study: Arbre Hub – Timber Training Creswick

Project TSDS_1702

Arbre Forest Industries Training & Careers Hub Inc. is a not-for-profit organisation created by industry leaders to promote careers within the Tasmanian timber and forest industry. Arbre's primary function is to capture any interest in the industry, then offer a pre-employment training program to cater for that interest.

The availability of the Training and Skills Development Service fund allowed Arbre to seek funding for a purpose-built, pre-employment pilot program called FIVE + 5. The pilot program was delivered over 2 weeks, with the units delivered adjusted to best suit the interests of the course participants. The idea was to contextualize further programs for different sectors, based off the success of the pilot.

Eight prospective industry employees undertook the FIVE + 5 program, delivered by Timber Training Creswick. Of the 8 places approved, 7 were filled and 4 learners went through to completion and directly into employment as a result of the course. Of the 3 learners that withdrew from the course, 2 left for casual employment and 1 left for reasons unknown.

Jack Lawton was one of the FIVE + 5 learners. The program "very much fulfilled my expectations on what to expect when I enter a sawmill. Everything covered in the course gave me a very good grounding in the day to day tasks expected of me," said Jack.

Not only did the learners consider the course beneficial, so did the company who went on to employ 4 of those learners, Neville Smith Forest Products (NSFP).

"This course has enabled NSFP to fill much needed positions in production with job hardened candidates. It also has given NSFP a good look at employees in our work environment," said Jason Crick, Production Manager, NSFP, who went on to employ the 4 completed learners.

Colin McCulloch, Project Manager of Arbre Hub, strongly agreed that participation in the TSDS program resulted in improvement to learners' work practices and skills, whilst causing minimal disruption to normal work practices. Overall, he was very satisfied with his involvement in the TSDS program and is likely to undertake further training.