



QUEENSLAND ALUMINA LIMITED

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For immediate release

Apprentices start new career path

Queensland Alumina Limited (QAL) will have an impressive 86 apprentices on site this year with 17 new recruits commencing their careers with one of the world's largest alumina refineries.

Over the past few months, QAL's recruitment team has had the enormous task of selecting 17 first year apprentices from a staggering 194 applications from throughout the region.

QAL Senior Human Resources Specialist Ms Vicki Bruton said the task proved extremely challenging given the high calibre of applications this year.

"QAL has a strong reputation as a favourable employer so it is encouraging to see that so many of our younger generation in the region are keen to begin their careers with us," Ms Bruton said.

"This year's apprentices represent a large cross-section of the community creating a very diverse workforce for QAL. In particular, we have apprentices from both ends of the scale – some are straight out of school, while others are mature age having accepted adult apprenticeships," she said.

As one of the state's largest apprentice employers, QAL is committed to providing youth in the region with viable employment opportunities through the apprenticeship program.

QAL Managing Director Mr Johann van Zyl said employing apprentices was of long-term benefit for both QAL and the Gladstone community.

"It makes perfect sense from a business point of view. Our apprenticeship scheme not only provides young people in the region with solid employment, but also ensures us a future of skilled workers, which is necessary for growth," Mr van Zyl said.

Of QAL's new apprentices, eight are mechanical, six are electrical and instrumentation, three are boiler-making.

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For further information:

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Mechanical Apprentices Mick Bruton and Callum Hodgson joined 15 other new apprentices on site at QAL this year.