



Media release

McCosker's provide doorway for students to gain skills at QAL

31 October 2017

Early this month a group of 17 students participated in work experience at Queensland Alumina Limited as part of the Doorway to Construction program. This program began in 2010, it is run by McCosker's and coordinated through EQIP (Education Queensland Industry Partners).

The Doorways to Construction program is a practical course that is run on-site at McCosker's for students in year 10 and 11 that are looking to have a career in industry. While completing the program the students gain hands on work experience in local industry and develop the skills required to carry out work safely in industry. During the course the students receive a certificate in Resources and Infrastructure Operations, a white card and complete a first aid course.

McCosker QAL Site Manager Kerry Polkinghorne said; "The program is designed to foster school based students to get a controlled and managed experience in industry. It creates opportunity for them to contribute as a team and to be exposed to how industry operates".

McCosker supervisors Anthony Brown and Paul Allsop have been working with QAL Contract Coordinator Tony Wroe to provide the students exposure to civil construction work and to teach the students skills that they can take into the workforce in future.

The students were taken on a site tour and inducted in the areas they will be working. Then they had their first week completing work onsite.

Josh Ferguson year 10 student from Toolooa State high is currently participating in the program. He said; "It is my first time at QAL, I am really excited to learn what it is all about. I like working with big machinery and engines and would love a career in diesel fitting. Through the program I have learnt not only about civil construction but the work force in general, it is really different to school.

"I am excited to complete the work at the QAL lookout because I will be able to show my family what I did".

QAL External Services Coordinator Tony Wroe said; "While at the QAL site the students completed civil work at the QAL lookout and car park. It is such a beneficial program for the students. While working with the students it was clear that they all had a strong safety focus."

Tony's son Jayden is one of the students participating in the program. Jayden said; "I love having the opportunity to get hands on experience, I was shocked at how big QAL is. It was also good to see where Dad works."

McCosker's contracting and EQIP thanked QAL for supporting this initiative and for giving our future work force a safe and controlled exposure to real life working industries.

-ENDS-

Pictured: Tony Wroe and son Jayden Wroe



Pictured: Students at the QAL lookout





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