

Apprentices geared up for success

Skill Hire in Western Australia partners with Hitachi Power Tools Australia to train the builders of tomorrow.



Skill Hire specialise in the provision of induction and OHS staff training, supplying business with apprentices and trainees, and providing flexible staffing options for their clients from temporary to permanent employees. The business directly employs 150 staff to deliver a range of employment and training solutions to business and on any day will provide a flexible workforce of up to 1000 people to employers.

One of Skill Hire's most rewarding services is providing complete accredited TAFE education through their training centre. It offers a unique program which provides young apprentices with basic training in a variety of trade skills and the use of work site tools and equipment, which in turn helps apprentices to gain lasting employment whilst also ensuring that Skill Hire clients receive competent and skilled apprentices.

Skill Hire Partners with Hitachi

Recognising the positive difference that the Skill Hire program has made to building and sustaining the next generation of skilled tradesmen, Hitachi partners with Skill Hire to provide a comprehensive range of the latest

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Customer: Skill Hire

Industries: Industrial, trade and DIY users

Region: Western Australia

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Products & Services: Power Tools

Solutions By: Hitachi Power Tools Australia Pty. Ltd.

and most innovative trade tools and equipment for the training centre, as well as education and technical assistance on the use of the tools. Hitachi's Western Australian Sales Manager Andrew Shaw says, "if [the apprentices] ever want us there for education, presenting the products, safety, the proper way to use tools, then we are available".



Our Customer: Skill Hire

Perth, Western Australia

Perth is the capital city of Western Australia. It has a growing population of approximately 1.7 million. Construction sector employment, particularly in housing construction, is a strong growth area.

Skill Hire is a leading trainer and provider of apprentices and trainees



“ Skill Hire is now one of the largest employers for young apprentices in the state. ”

Donald MacKenzie
CEO, Skill Hire

Established in 1992, SkillHire is a privately owned Australian company which offers a variety of employment and staffing solutions for businesses. Originating in Albany with the training of unemployed people, Skill Hire is now one of the largest employers of building and construction apprentices in Western Australia.



Challenge

Tradesmen without tools.
Equipping apprentices.

The federal government understands the need for apprentices to have the tools of their trade. In the past the government had a “tool voucher” scheme, where apprentices could buy certain tools without ever handling any money. Currently the scheme has changed where the apprentice receives a yearly allowance to support the costs of their training, purchases of relevant tools, and other costs associated with their Australian Apprenticeship.

It's often found that apprentices choose to spend the

government tool allowance on other activities rather than on their professional needs, thus graduating from their apprenticeship ill-equipped to enter the employment market. Hitachi recognise this and encourage apprentices to be mindful of the need to set themselves up for the future.



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“ They get really hands-on with us and they’ll actually come out and have a chat with us, see how we’re going and if we have any questions they do care and they explain their life experiences with what we’re experiencing on site. ”

Liam Harrison, 2nd year carpentry apprentice

“ Part of our involvement with Skill Hire is to help train or educate that it’s necessary to have the proper tools for your trade when you leave. ”

Andrew Shaw, Hitachi Power Tools Australia



Solution

Empowering the future.
New strategies for success.



Hitachi and Skill Hire are working on developing new ways to ensure our young apprentices have the best start in their careers. It’s important that apprentices graduate with a kit of tools and equipment which will showcase to prospective employers their professionalism and dedication to their trade, and will last them well into their careers.

One way to ensure apprentices have the tools they need is to create a set of tools, relevant to their trade, which the apprentice can purchase during the course of the year, with the money they receive from the government.

“ When they leave, they don’t leave empty handed, they leave equipped, with skills, knowledge and the tools and ready to go. ”

Andrew Shaw, Hitachi Power Tools Australia



These sets of tools would receive pricing support from Hitachi through their dealer network and Skill Hire would handle the apprentices allowance to make sure the money is spent where it should be, with total transparency for the apprentice.

“ I saw the Hitachi brand and realised how innovative the tools were and how much more user-friendly... so I changed to become a Hitachi user. ”

Dave Kukutai, Senior Trainer, Skill Hire



Result

Hitachi in the hands of the next generation



With their training complete, the new tradesmen from Skill Hire will head out into the workforce. Some will continue on with their host employer, some will start their own businesses, either way they start their careers with Hitachi Power Tools in their hands.

Andrew Shaw sums it up with “it gives you a really good feeling knowing that you’ve supplied them with a

product that they’re happy with and continuing to use to be successful in what they do.”

With the proven longevity of the Hitachi Tool range and the fact that they have been trained with these tools will ensure these next generation of tradesmen will keep Hitachi firmly in their hands



“ At Skill Hire they use mainly Hitachi because of their quality, reliability, and the trainers there, that’s what they had in their tool kit, they want to stick with it, they know it’s reliable. ”

Jackson Fleay, 2nd year carpentry apprentice




“Driven by Outcomes”

About Skill Hire

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Skill Hire CEO Donald MacKenzie sees a bright future of the partnership. “We try and build relationships with all our customers and suppliers because for us that consistency is very important and as we expand then we will expand with Hitachi.”

 www.skillhire.com.au