

# Gilbert building on bright future with apprenticeship

HE MAY well hail from the other side of the world, but Bundamba State Secondary College student Gilbert Shindanga's dreams are no different to any other young man with a passion for building things.

Arriving from the Congo about 18 months ago, Gilbert has wasted no time in following in his dad's footsteps.

The year 11 student is completing a school-based apprenticeship in construction, which he hopes will lead to a career in building once he finishes year 12 in 2018.

"My dad was a builder back in the Congo and it's something I enjoy doing," Gilbert said.

"I see it as an industry where you can help people."

Gilbert is one of 35 apprentices working on the Building Futures Program through Apprenticeships Queensland and Tafe Queensland South-West.

Over six months, the students will renovate a 130-year-old North Ipswich home under the guidance of experienced tradies.

Gilbert said the project was progressing well and he was picking up some useful knowledge and skills along the way.

The students have already made a big impact on the old timber home, with the floor and roof finished on the extended open living area out the back.

Foreman Jamie Robinson said the team was about to start lining the walls in the living area before making a start on the ensuite and common bathrooms.

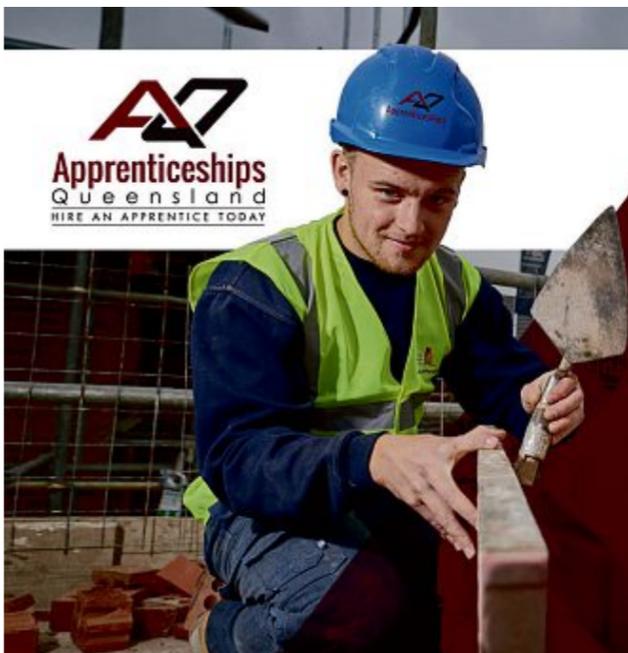
"The front fence is also just about finished - all we have left to do there is the gates," he said.

Once the inside of the house has progressed, work will start on the large back verandah, a new addition to the house which will extend several metres from the back living space.



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