



More to being a painter

BEING a tradie takes a dedication to the smaller details, especially when you're learning your craft.

That was the case when Grant Campbell, a 17 year old student at Springfield Central State High School answered the call to work on one of the houses which have been a part of Building Futures Program.

Apprenticeships Queensland have partnered with TAFE Queensland and several local schools to offer hands on, real time experience working on a home renovation.

This is the second home under the project. The first was in North Ipswich and this new one, due to be finished by the end of the year, is in Sadlier's Crossing.

The home is currently a three-bedroom,

one-bathroom home, but by the end of the year it will have two levels along with will have an extra three bedrooms downstairs along with a big rumpus room.

Fourteen school based apprentices are out of the classroom and under supervisor Jamie's wing, learning their trade which in many cases can lead to a full-time job when they graduate.

In total 54 students will get real time experience on the project this year, and already attention is turning to the future of a fast-growing Ipswich and who is going to do all the work required.

Grant admits that he was undecided which way he wanted to go with his career, but after working on the North Ipswich project, found where his passion was.

"I'd always wanted to be a tradie, but I was half and half between being a carpenter or painter," Grant said.

"This opportunity came up and I found it really fun, as I got to try to bit of everything. I was one of the standouts at the end, so when I graduate I do it full time. I did originally want to be a vet, but you need a high OP for that. So I did the painting, and really enjoyed the 'hands on' aspect of it, so I realised that being a tradie was for me."

Grant loved the work a painter does, and thought the variety of jobs he'd do every day made it a fun experience.

"Using all the tools was an real eye opener. I originally planned to be carpenter, but once I tried the painting I actually preferred it, I enjoyed it a lot

more. I love that attention to detail, plus I was working on walls, ceilings, putting up frames and all kinds of stuff like that," Grant said.

"I thought painting was going to be picking up a brush, but most of the job is the preparation, sanding, filling and doing all the things you need to do before you do the actual painting. "There's so much to do on this house job in and out, it's going to keep us very busy. I feel like some days I'm tired but I think that's me just getting used to it. Last year I was helping the apprentices, now I am the apprentice."

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