

Innovative program for school students

Adopt-a-School programs foster the relationship between high schools and businesses

AUSTRALIAN-owned and family operated business, JJ Richards, is responding to the impact of the Australian skills and labour shortage.

Recognised as innovative leaders in transport and environmental solutions, JJ Richards is giving new meaning to youth employment as their first round of students from Woodridge State High School launch their Adopt-a-School program.

Experiencing difficulties attracting youth into the transport and logistics (T&L) industry, JJ Richards realised they needed to recruit differently to rise above their challenges.

JJ Richards director Phil Richards said the company decided to take an innovative approach to attracting and training youth into the workforce to meet future demands.

"Australia faces a potential short fall of 195,000 workers in five years time and we didn't want to be caught out without the right people in our business," Mr Richards said.

Fourteen students have commenced with JJ Richards in the 'hands-on' program through structured work placements.

This means students undertake on-the-job-learning once a week, with coaching and mentoring



School's out: Woodridge High School students get with the program.

provided by current JJ Richards staff.

Woodridge State High School teacher-in-charge James Southwood said it was a dynamic partnership between industry, government and schools that would promote a holistic synergy between education and work outcomes for students.

"This is a very exciting journey for our students, and they take their role very seriously, as they have an opportunity to look through a window into the world of work," Mr Southwood said.

T&L Adopt-a-School programs foster the relationship between high schools and businesses and are a great way to encourage students to pursue a career within the industry.

Students participating in the innovative program also work towards a Certificate in Transport and Distribution through TAFE.

To find out more about working at JJ Richards call 3488 9600 or to become involved in an Adopt-a-School program contact Queensland Transport on 3117 5610.