

NEWS RELEASE

Safe start to apprentice training

Wilmar Sugar's first-year apprentices are being given the safest-possible start to their careers through a new safety program.

The 25 recruits have already completed the first three weeks of the 100-day Safe Start Program, run in conjunction with TecNQ.

Wilmar Sugar Operations General Manager Mike McLeod said the program comprised a mix of theoretical and supervised, practical training aimed at preparing apprentices for the workforce.

"We want to ensure our apprentices gain a strong understanding of safe work behaviours from day one - before they're on the job in our factories," Mr McLeod said.

"During their first 100 days with us they'll learn important safety tools, such as hazard identification, how to do risk assessments and what good housekeeping looks like in the workplace.

"These are valuable skills which will serve them well throughout the next four years of their trade training and beyond."

The apprentices have already spent two weeks at TecNQ and one undertaking safety inductions at Wilmar Sugar's Burdekin Training Centre.

This week marks the first time they will be based at their respective mills. Wilmar Sugar senior managers will officially welcome them to the business at BBQs planned in each region during the week.

The group comprises six Herbert-based apprentices, 12 based in the Burdekin, four for Proserpine Mill and three for Plane Creek Mill. They join more than 100 other apprentices already employed across Wilmar Sugar's eight mills.

"This year's successful candidates were chosen from more than 400 applicants across North and Central Queensland," Mr McLeod said.

"For the first time the recruitment process was conducted on a group level, so these 25 apprentices represent the best talent from all regions."

Mr McLeod said apprentices represented the future of Wilmar Sugar and the business was committed to providing them with the best-possible trade training.

"An apprenticeship is a great opportunity," he said.

"Our apprentices get the chance to experience a lot more variety working in a sugar mill than many other apprentices.

"It's important they take advantage of the opportunity they've been given, learn as much as they can from our experienced tradesmen and always remember to put safety first."

The Safe Start Program is part of a wider Wilmar Sugar initiative focused on building a stronger safety culture across the business.

Apprentices available for interviews:

Herbert:	Mat Lawlor	0455 594 578
Burdekin:	Kurt and Tyler Boxall (identical twins)	0437 982 338 (K) 0400 737 026 (T)
Proserpine:	Logan Dachs	0437 994 629
Plane Creek:	Jordan Laverty Matthew Dillion (adult apprentice)	0435 761 210 0435 761 210

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