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Apprentices and trainees energise their careers

SP AusNet tackles skills shortage

Victoria's electricity distributor SP AusNet has welcomed thirty-one apprentices and trainees to the company as part of its plan to develop the essential skills that will be needed by the workforce of the future.

The apprentices and trainees were offered positions across SP AusNet's business, with a formal induction day at our head office in Southbank planned to educate the group on the many services SP AusNet provides to the community of Victoria.

SP AusNet spokesperson Sean Sampson said it was fantastic to see this level of interest in joining Victoria's largest energy delivery business.

"We have now accepted nearly 200 apprentices and trainees since the program was implemented in 2000, all the while taking great steps towards developing the skills needed by the power industry now and into the future," Mr Sampson said.

"The new recruits were officially welcomed into the business at an induction day that discussed in detail how the many facets of SP AusNet work together to a common goal, to deliver a consistent and reliable source of energy to our customers," he said.

As part of the induction, the group of lineworkers, communications trainees, electrical fitters, gas trainees, technical services trainees, trainee controllers, trainee designers, trainee surveyors and trainee testers heard from field representatives about opportunities in the company and visited our Rowville Terminal Station, part of Victoria's electricity transmission network.

The trip to Rowville allowed the group to discover how high voltage electricity is gradually distributed from transmission lines to the poles and wires in our streets.

"Each new employee is assigned a 'mentor' to provide guidance throughout their apprenticeship or traineeship, which makes it a much more personalised relationship and allows the knowledge from more experienced staff to be passed on to the new recruits," he said.

"The annual recruitment program will begin again around August, for positions commencing in 2011, so anyone interested is encouraged to keep an eye open for details closer to the date. Further information will also be available on our website: www.sp-ausnet.com.au

"We actively recruit in the local areas that we're looking to fill positions, so we really encourage people to read their local papers for further details," Mr Sampson said.

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