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## Xstrata Coal Queensland Pty Ltd

Winner of the Minister's Award for Excellence for  
Employers of Australian Apprentices 2008  
(Central Queensland Region)



Xstrata Coal Queensland operates mines in Rolleston, Oakey Creek, Newlands and Abbot Point and, combined with TAFE Queensland, has created a unique apprenticeship program with an emphasis on formal training.

'Xstrata Coal Queensland apprenticeship is unique in that the apprentice will undertake 42 weeks of full-time training in year one, and then six weeks of training in years two, three and four,' John Snape, Group Reliability Manager.

'This ensures our apprentices have a solid background on which to build their core skills.'

Formal training takes place at Emerald TAFE where apprentices study first aid, forklift operation, working on elevated work platforms, crane basics, welding and community and health education. They will then be ready to gain experience working at mine sites.

'A site training plan is in place to ensure the apprentice gains experience in using a wide variety of equipment, mining methods, systems and manufacturers to acquire the knowledge and skills to become a competent tradesman,' John says.





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'This is designed to nurture apprentice development to maximise their potential as quality tradesmen, while satisfying their own personal development and meeting company needs.'

This model is gaining recognition as best practice and encouraging more young people to train with Xstrata Coal Queensland. In 2007, the company received more than 650 apprenticeship applications.

