

SHAUN LEAT



CHOOSE THE CAREER FOR YOU. PROFILE No 10

Course: **Certificate III in Concreting**
GTO: **Apprenticeships Queensland (QLD)**
Host Employer: **RLK Concreting**



Shaun how long has it been since you left school and had to make a career choice?

Eight years. I started off doing primary school teaching at university and then decided after doing that for two years that it wasn't for me. I thought, what would be a career that I could do for the rest of my life and find it rewarding? There were lots of commercial buildings and high rise going up, so I thought why not try concreting. I like the early mornings, I like going to bed early and waking up fresh. It's weird to go from primary school teaching to concreting, but it just felt right. I'm loving it. Like I really am loving it.

What sort of future career opportunities are there?

You can do high-rise buildings. You can do your back yard stuff, which is like driveways and footpaths. You can do garage slabs. You can do house slabs and you can do patio slabs. Different people specialise in different things.

I imagine concreting is hard, hands on work. How important is that combination of hands on and learning?

Very important because it's physical. If you don't learn the correct way to do things, you'll hurt yourself.

With Group Training there is the flexibility to change host employers. Have you utilised that at all?

No I haven't because Rodney, my boss, has been so good to me. He's looked after me, taken me under his wing. I thought I would stick with him, purely because he treated me so well.

That's excellent. So you're working full time. You do have a HECS debt which is a bit unfortunate. How important is earning money and a lifestyle to you?

Very important. When I was at Uni, I was working purely to live. It was just to scrape through to pay the rent, to get food. I wasn't going out on weekends. People think Uni's a party, but it wasn't for me. A traineeship or apprenticeship where you earn money straight up is probably a better option. Well I think it's a better option.

What have been some of your major achievements. Are you saving money? Have you bought a car? Have you got lots of friends?

Ha, ha. I wish I had lots of friends. I bought a unit with my brother and we're currently doing it up. I've got money in the bank for a change. I'm waiting until I've finished my time before I buy a new car but I've got a ute that does me well. So I can live a lifestyle and go out on weekends. I can take my girlfriend out to dinner and live a proper life.

Any advice for young people who are about to make a career decision?

Go with your heart. At first I did primary school teaching because all the talk was... go to Uni... you have to go to Uni... the only way to get anywhere is to go to Uni. I don't know what people are trying to prove by that. That is not the only way. You do not have to go to Uni to make a success of yourself or to have a successful life or career. Whatever you do, as long as you're happy doing it, it'll be good. That's what I reckon.

Shaun, thank you very much and good luck concreting.

Shaun was awarded the 2007 Group Training Trainee of the year Queensland. His work ethic is outstanding and he's one of the most reliable and skillful apprentices his host employer has had the pleasure of training. Shaun shows keen business sense, pride in his work and a willingness to share knowledge and experiences with others, engendering a strong team culture within any concreting crew. He devotes the same enthusiasm to his theoretical studies as to his on the job training, knowing it will equip him well for the future.

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