



Trilogy Building Services at Auburn has two apprenticeships up for grabs.
Picture: PHIL ROGERS

Job snobs

Too many parents are guilty of 'job snobbery' by encouraging their children to turn down trade work in favour of a university education, career specialists say.

[Full report, page 15](#)



WESTERN SYDNEY

Pushy parents impact on jobs

EXPERTS WARN AGAINST UNI PRESSURING

Kylie Adoranti

PARENTS should let their children decide on what career path they want to take rather than expecting too much from them, a workforce development and skills expert says.

WPC Group and Institute for Workplace Skills and Innovation chief executive Nicholas Wyman said young people were often pressured by their parents to go to university.

Mr Wyman said teens needed to understand it wasn't the end of the world if they did not go to uni.

"Parents have to have an open-minded view and really let their child work out what it is that interests them," he said.

"You get these myopically focused parents who say 'that's where my daughter or son is going to go whether they like it or not'."

With the youth unemployment rate in western Sydney higher than other regions, the *Job U* author said something needed to be done.

"Let your children explore the options that are available and see what's right for them.

"A lot of these parents think university education is going to lead to a higher paid, prestigious job and the fact is there are a lot of trades through apprentices who are earning a lot more than someone who has a uni-

versity degree."

In Parramatta, the unemployment rate for ages 15 and 24 is 10.1 per cent, compared with 9.8 per cent in the inner west and 4.5 per cent in the northern beaches.

Mr Wyman said there were unfilled apprenticeships in western Sydney but people would not take them.

Trilogy Building Services, Auburn, general manager

George Fountis said at the moment, there were two apprenticeships up for grabs at his heating, airconditioning and refrigeration service business.

Western Sydney Regional Organisation of Councils (WSROC) president Tony Hadchiti echoed Mr Wyman's concerns.

"Too many of our youth believe that future opportunities can only come via a university education," Cr Hadchiti said.

"Just because a young person is capable of completing a university degree doesn't necessarily mean that it is the best option for them or the community for that matter - this kind of thinking has resulted in far too many degree-qualified baristas in Sydney," he said.

He said pathways from high schools into vocational training needed to be strengthened.



Trilogy Building Services general manager George Fountis and employee Anthony Jans.