



WORK PAYS OFF: Stephen Sakolevas has secured an electrical apprenticeship.

Demand for tradies is on the rise

PASSION, motivation and plain hard work helped Aberfoyle Park's Stephen Sakolevas secure a job in the trade of his choice.

The 17-year-old apprentice electrician has been employed at Smart Wiring Solutions, Lonsdale, since November. "I felt like it was a bit of a reward for all the effort I put in," he

says. Mr Sakolevas, who began a school-based apprenticeship at the Australian Technical College in 2008, took on work experience with five companies for a total of ten weeks. "At the start I had to remember, it's going to be beneficial even though I'm not getting paid - it's one step closer to making me

employable. All the work I did I think put me ahead of everyone else so it paid off." Figures show the region experienced an increase in demand for tradespeople in the 12 months to April.

"The thing I found in this industry is you have to be in the right place at the right time and get out there by word of mouth."