



Business of keeping apprentices

By ERIN SOMERVILLE

GENERATION gaps and poor finances are two big reasons why apprentices find it hard to stick it out these days.

The Australian Business Limited Apprenticeships Centre (ABLAC) has noticed an increase in employers struggling to see apprentices through to become qualified and have offered a helping hand to those in the business.

"I think a lot of people drop out because they are looking at the money approach," ABLAC consultant Christine Rieksen said.

"Getting to four years is also a long commitment and many people only get halfway through."

Ms Rieksen said a generation gap between apprentices and employees

contributed to conflict and dissatisfaction in the workplace.

She said employers found Generation Y to be more outspoken, absorbed in IT and social media, and were unable to take criticism well.

"They have problems dealing with stress and coping with change within the workplace."

ABLAC hosted a workshop last week to help bridge the gap and encourage apprentices to see their traineeship through.

Olympian basketballer Natalie Porter showed attendees with basketball drills how to cope with different types of pressure.

Around 35 employees and apprentices attended the workshop, with people travelling from Forbes and Parkes.

erin.somerville@ruralpress.com



TRAINING UP: Australian Business Limited Apprenticeships Centre general manager Andrew Williams with Cisco Electrical apprentice Jack Schmich and employer Jeff Cisco. Photo: JUDE KEOGH

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