

Apprentice crisis

THE collapse of two apprenticeship schemes has cast doubt on the futures of 334 young Victorians and requires an immediate response from governments and industry.

Yesterday the *Herald Sun* reported that 210 Victorian building apprentices had lost their apprenticeships after the collapse of a private scheme set up by the Construction, Forestry, Mining and Energy Union and employer bodies.

Today we report that 124 chefs have lost their apprenticeships through the collapse of a scheme run by a private company, Hospitality Group Training.

The Bracks Government withdrew support after this scheme was put in receivership last week owing about \$300,000.

The collapses come when a federal government agency is spending much money on advertisements encouraging young people to take up apprenticeships.

These hard-working young Victorians deserve better. They must be helped.