

SHIPS AHOY FOR NEW TRAINEES

ANDREW HOUGH



Apprentices Oscar Forest and Isabella Veritay-Richards at ASC Shipbuilding, Osborne. Picture: Tait Schmaal

THE first batch of South Australian shipbuilder apprentices have started work at Adelaide's naval shipyard as part of the \$90 billion Federal Government defence industry.

The 18 high school students were hand-picked from 40 applicants to train in areas including steelwork, mechanical, electrical and technical trades.

The students, who attend 10 schools across the state, will be employed at BAE Systems Australia's business, ASC Shipbuilding, at Osborne, in Adelaide's northwest. A second intake of 22 students will be employed later this year.

They will be among 1000 students employed during the multi-decade \$35bn program building nine Royal Australian Navy ships.

They will complete their SACE during their apprenticeships.

The company said when the anti-submarine warfare frigates were built, three in four workers, including senior executives, would have began as trainees.

Announcing the details on Monday, Premier Steven Marshall said it was an important milestone to ensure young people had "appropriate skills".

New trainees include Henley High student Oscar Forest, of Fulham, and Urrbrae Agricultural pupil Isabella Veritay-Richards, of Blackwood. The students, both 17, are excited about their jobs.