

More Jobs, Better Training, Higher Growth

Creating jobs is a key focus of Budget 2004. The highest ever cash injection in infrastructure spending of \$441 million along with record tax cuts means the 2004 Budget is pro-business, pro-growth and pro-Territory jobs.

The record infrastructure spend alone will sustain approximately 4 000 jobs, with extra tourism funding recently announced of \$27.5 million expected to generate a further 950 jobs in that sector. The Government is also delivering on its commitment to recruit more police, teachers and nurses.

\$160 million Territory Jobs Plan – moving the Territory ahead

The Territory's first ever Jobs Plan, a \$160 million three year blueprint to develop a skilled Territory workforce, continues to roll-out with Budget 2004 including:

- \$11.75 million to support 2 400 apprentices and trainees in around 180 discrete qualifications across 16 industry sectors.
- \$1.2 million has been allocated over the next three years for pre-vocational training programs in the automotive, electrical and aviation sectors.
- \$38 million for a broad range of vocational education and training programs and courses.
- Around 180 students will be supported to participate in School Based New Apprenticeships, as part of the Territory Government's target of 400 over three years.
- The Territory Government has committed to employing an extra 200 Public Sector trainees over three years. For 2004, 79 new apprentices have been employed.
- \$1.75 million employer incentives, including \$2 200 for small businesses taking on an apprentice or trainee and \$7 700 for employers taking on an apprentice in a skills shortage area.

Supporting regional and remote training needs

- \$2.1 million will be spent on training programs for Indigenous people living in regional and remote areas.
- Regional Training Centres based in Jabiru, Nhulunbuy, Katherine and Tennant Creek will be transformed into Community Learning Centres, so communities can determine their specific learning and training needs.
- A further \$1 million will be provided for the Training for Remote Youth (TRY) program to improve the employability of remote youth and re-engage them with school.
- An extra \$386 000 will be provided to Footprints Forward which aims to increase Indigenous employment outcomes in Alice Springs.

