

**SYD STIRLING**

MINISTER FOR EMPLOYMENT, EDUCATION AND TRAINING

3 May, 2005

**A RECORD 10,000 APPRENTICES AND TRAINEES**

Budget 2005 continues the Martin Government's strong investment in building a skilled Territory workforce and backing Territorians to enter into training, Minister for Employment, Education and Training Syd Stirling announced today.

"Over the next four years, the Martin Government will support the training of a record 10,000 trainees and apprentices," Mr Stirling said.

"Building a skilled workforce is one of the biggest challenges facing the Territory. That's why the Martin Government introduced the Territory's first-ever Jobs Plan and created a strategy to ensure training dollars are spent in areas that will lead to jobs for Territorians.

"Budget 2005 continues our efforts to build a skilled, flexible workforce for local business and Territorians.

"Our strategies are showing early success with more than 3100 Territorians currently in training – a record for the Territory – and more to come."

**BACKING TERRITORIANS TO GAIN SKILLS**

Budget 2005 increases the Jobs Plan budget by \$2 million and provides an increase of \$1.5 million for Charles Darwin University. It includes a range of initiatives aimed at helping Territorians gain important skills that will lead to work.

Highlights include:

- a new Workwear Workgear bonus of up to \$500 for new apprentices and trainees to buy tools, clothing and other equipment to help get them started in their new career
- 40 Vocational Education and Training scholarships a year worth \$4000 for Territorians studying a Certificate III up to Diploma level course
- \$500,000 for "*Build Skills NT*" a new upskilling initiative for workers in the automotive, building, construction, hospitality and mining industries
- \$400,000 for pre-employment programs for unemployed Territorians to train them for skilled work or prepare them for an apprenticeship or traineeship
- \$200,000 for "*Work Ready NT*" an initiative aimed at improving school to work transition in directed at industry and students
- \$4.4 million for VET in Schools to prepare around 1,100 students for further Vocational Education and Training



## **MORE FUNDS FOR TRAINING COURSES**

The Martin Government is continuing to invest heavily in Vocational Education and Training courses with Budget 2005 including:

- an extra \$1.5 million investment in the Charles Darwin University Trades School, taking total CDU VET funding to \$35.2 million
- a further \$2.6 million to CDU for VET infrastructure
- \$9.6 million to Batchelor Institute of Indigenous Tertiary Education for training

## **BACKING BUSINESS TO TAKE ON APPRENTICES**

Under the Jobs Plan, the Martin Government introduced a range of incentives to assist businesses with taking on apprentices and trainees.

That support continues in Budget 2005, with:

- 250 incentives a year worth \$3000 for small businesses taking on apprentices and trainees
- 150 incentives worth \$7000 for businesses taking on apprentices in hard-to-fill trades

## **TRAINING SUPPORT FOR REMOTE TERRITORIANS**

Budget 2005 includes \$4.4 million to better skill Territorians living in remote areas, with:

- \$1.8 million in Flexible Response Funding for training or employment on-site
- \$1 million for the Training for Remote Youth program
- \$300,000 for the Community Response Program, so remote Territorians gain work-ready skills, such as driver training and first aid training
- \$1.3 million for regional and remote training centres

## **OTHER TRAINING ASSISTANCE**

Budget 2005 also includes:

- \$1 million for the Territory's six Training Advisory Councils
- \$980,000 for Public Sector Traineeships

“Budget 2005 continues the Martin Government’s efforts to back Territorians by supporting them to undertake training and to back local business by providing a skilled Territory workforce,” Mr Stirling said.

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