

Skills and Jobs

10 000 More Trainees and Apprentices

Under Jobs Plan 2, the Government will continue to encourage the employment of additional apprentices and trainees.

\$1.56 million will be available for employer incentives, particularly in traditional trades and small business.

More than 2600 apprentices and trainees commenced in 2005 with a further 900 commencing in the first quarter of 2006.

Programs are on track to deliver the Territory 10 000 new apprentice and trainee commencements over the next four years.

Training Courses for Wickham Point

Following the successful program that provided training and subsequent full-time employment for more than 160 Territorians as ladders at the Wickham Point LNG plant, the Government continued to fund training which provided a further 164 jobs for locals in applying protective coating at the plant.

The Territory faces significant challenges in building a skilled workforce. Working with industry, the Government will continue to improve Territorians' access to the opportunities generated by a growing economy. Over the next four years, the Government will spend \$300 million on training and supporting Territorians to develop better skills and access local jobs. Of this, \$60 million is directly committed to vocational education and training (VET) during 2006-07.

Jobs Plan 2

Jobs Plan 2 will continue its comprehensive and coordinated approach to planning for jobs and mapping the future needs for a skilled, flexible Territory workforce. This will ensure that training dollars are spent in areas that deliver skilled workers to local businesses.

Better Skills

In 2006-07, the Territory Government will continue to encourage Territorians to improve their skills by:

- offering financial bonuses of \$1000 to apprentices in identified skill shortage areas and \$300 to trainees to assist them start their training (for example, to buy work gear, boots, tools and other necessary equipment);
- allocating \$500 000 to assist existing workers, particularly in the automotive, building, construction, hospitality and mining industries;
- committing \$400 000 to pre-vocational programs to assist unemployed and young Territorians to take up jobs or traineeships;
- providing 40 one-off \$4000 scholarships to assist with fees and material costs for Territorians studying for VET Certificate III to Diploma level courses; and
- increasing funding for VET at Charles Darwin University by \$1.5 million to \$37 million in 2006 to improve facilities and the level and quality of training in traditional trade qualifications.

Incentives for Employers

Jobs Plan 2 will continue to provide financial incentives to encourage and assist eligible employers to take up additional apprentices and trainees, particularly in areas where there is a known skills shortage:

- Traditional Trades Incentive: 150 incentives a year valued at \$7000 each will be available to employers to take on an apprentice in a traditional trade area; and
- Small Business Incentive: 125 incentives a year valued at \$3000 each will be available to small businesses to take on a trainee or apprentice.



During 2005, incentives were provided to employers covering a range of traditional trades, including plumbing, electrical and mechanical.

School to Work Transition

The 2006-07 Budget provides \$4.4 million for the School to Work Transition strategy. This includes the VET in Schools Program, School-Based New Apprenticeships, the Workready Program as well as VET initiatives under Building Better Schools. The strategy includes:

- \$2.27 million for the VET in Schools program to provide VET courses and careers advice to more than 1100 students while at school, and as they prepare to move into the Territory workforce;
- \$0.95 million to expand VET under Building Better Schools;
- \$0.2 million to support the Workready program which assists students in their transition to work; and
- \$1 million for driver training and licensing for 16 to 18 year olds.

Training for Remote Workers

The 2006-07 Budget includes \$4.4 million specifically to assist remote Territorians develop better skills and respond to local employment opportunities. This will be achieved through:

- Flexible Response Funding of \$1.8 million to deliver accredited and non-accredited training in response to community needs;
- \$1 million for the Training for Remote Youth (TRY) program to re-engage 14 to 19 year olds, particularly those in regional and remote communities, in training and learning;
- \$0.3 million for the Community Response Program, giving remote Territorians work-ready and employability skills such as driver training and first aid training; and
- \$1.3 million to support regional and remote training centres.

As in previous years, recurrent funding is provided to a number of registered training organisations to deliver a broad range of VET courses in remote communities.

Skills Recruitment Campaign

In response to skills shortages identified in the Territory economy, the Northern Territory Government began a major campaign in February 2005 to attract skilled workers and professionals to the Territory. Advertising in newspapers, magazines and on radio received a strong response, with about 4000 people from around Australia and New Zealand expressing interest in moving to the Territory.

The ongoing campaign calls for skilled tradespeople in fields such as metal trades, construction, electrical, hairdressing, automotive and hospitality. For professionals, the campaign targets engineers, doctors, dentists, nurses, specialist teachers and community workers.

Results from the first phase of the campaign are currently being evaluated and a database of potential employees has been made available to Territory business. Additional market research will be carried out to shape the next phase of the campaign, which may include information forums with industry representatives, tailored information and advertising targeting specific skills shortages and regional areas. For more information visit: www.nt.gov.au/skilled and www.theterritory.com.au

Pre-employment Programs for Remote Indigenous Territorians

As part of a pre-employment program, regional Indigenous Territorians were identified for employment in the tourism industry. Twelve students have commenced Certificate I in Tourism (Australian Indigenous Culture) which will provide opportunities for traineeships and employment with tour operators in Arnhem Land.

In Timber Creek, 12 students are undertaking an entry into construction pre-employment program. Successful participants will have the opportunity to progress to Certificate II in Construction, and employment in construction, maintenance and landscaping for the Bradshaw Field Training Area.



New Information, Communications and Technology Jobs

The Government has signed two major outsourced contracts for the provision of information technology and telecommunications services to all Government agencies. These contracts include the creation of 28 new graduate information technology jobs and more than 150 new call centre positions over the next four years.