

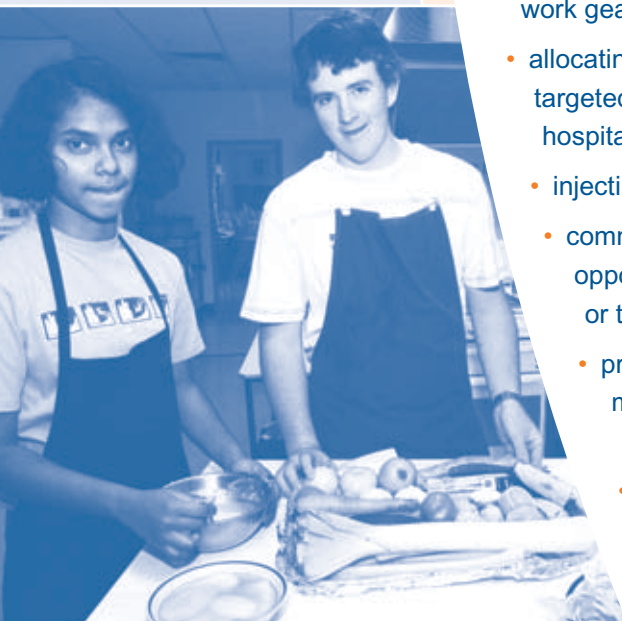
# Skills and Jobs

The Territory Government is committed to improving local access to the opportunities arising out of a growing economy. In working with industry to develop a skilled workforce, the Government will spend \$310 million on training Territorians to develop better skills and gain better access to local jobs. Of this amount, \$63 million is directly committed to vocational education and training (VET) during 2007-08.

The Territory Government continues towards its goal of an additional 10 000 apprentices and trainees over four years. To date, 5200 apprentices and trainees have commenced training, with another 2550 places targeted in 2007-08.

## Hospitality Pre-employment

As part of a pre-employment program, 15 students participated in a short intensive course designed to prepare them to work in the hospitality industry. The students completed their Certificate II in Hospitality with a focus on the service/front of house sector. All participants have since gained employment in the hospitality industry.



## Jobs Plan 3

Jobs Plan 3 builds on the momentum of Jobs Plan 1 and Jobs Plan 2 by reinforcing initiatives and strategies that aim to increase employment opportunities for Territorians, enhance industry partnerships and improve pathways to jobs in regional and remote areas. Commencing from 2007-08, an additional \$8.5 million will be provided to deliver Territory businesses a skilled workforce. This brings the total commitment for Jobs Plan initiatives to \$21.3 million over four years.

## Better Skills

The Territory Government will continue to encourage more Territorians to take on an apprenticeship or traineeship and improve their skills by:

- providing \$1.25 million in 2007-08 for the WorkWear WorkGear Bonus – 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 \$0.5 million to assist the upskilling of existing workers through targeted training, particularly in the automotive, building, construction, hospitality and mining industries;
- injecting a further \$1.5 million to train additional apprentices and trainees;
- committing \$0.25 million to pre-employment programs to increase opportunities for young Territorians and the unemployed to take up jobs or traineeships;
- providing 20 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 to \$45 million, and to \$9.5 million at the Batchelor Institute of Indigenous Tertiary Education in 2007-08.

## Incentives for Employers

Jobs Plan 3 will see further financial incentives to encourage and assist eligible employers to take up additional apprentices and trainees, particularly in identified skills shortage areas:

- Occupational Shortages Incentive – 340 incentives a year at \$4000 each will be available to employers to take on apprentices in occupational skills shortage areas; and
- Disadvantaged Groups Incentive – 200 incentives at \$2000 each will be available for employers to take on an apprentice or a trainee from a disadvantaged group.

## School to Work Transition

The 2007-08 Budget provides \$4.4 million for the School to Work Transition strategy, including:

- \$2.2 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 2007-08 Budget includes \$7.58 million to assist Territorians, specifically those in remote communities, to 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;
- \$0.98 million under the joint Indigenous Funding Pool to improve training results through literacy, numeracy and mentoring support programs;
- \$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.

Funding continues to be provided to registered training organisations to deliver a broad range of VET courses in remote communities, with \$1 million in 2007-08 to address training and employment needs of Indigenous adults.



### BuildSkills for Pastoral Sector

Through the BuildSkills project, 18 stockmen and women from various stations in the Victoria River district undertook Certificates II, III, and IV in Agriculture. The training addresses the need for skilled workers in remote areas and helps Territory landowners to recruit and train people in their industry.

### Skills Recruitment Campaign

The Territory Government's Skilled Worker Recruitment Campaign continues to attract skilled workers and professionals in fields such as electrical and metal trades, automotive, construction, engineers, hospitality, hairdressing, doctors, dentists, nurses, specialist teachers and community workers. The Government has also exhibited in career expos in Brisbane and Sydney and held interstate information sessions with the Territory Construction Association.