INCREASE IN TERRITORY APPRENTICESHIPS & TRAINEESHIPS

The number of Territorians to start apprenticeships and traineeships in the year to 30 June 2005 has risen by 29 per cent - bringing the total number in-training to 3200 – according to the National Centre for Vocational Education Research (NCVER) report.

NCVER’s Australian Apprentice and Trainee Statistics, June Quarter 2005 summary reported that more than 600 Territorians had begun apprenticeships or traineeships in the June quarter.

Employment, Education and Training Minister Syd Stirling said the strong growth – easily the highest in Australia – was another indicator that the Territory’s economy was heading in the right direction. The next highest jurisdiction was Western Australia, which reported an 11 per cent rise in commencements.

“The Territory Government is committed to training and skilling our workforce and, significantly, the summary reported 300 Territorians completed an apprenticeship or traineeship in the quarter,” he said.

“I expect more Territorians will continue to undertake apprenticeships and traineeships in strong numbers following the launch of The VET Experience marketing campaign in August.

“The campaign promotes the benefits of apprenticeships and traineeships to local employers and potential participants and encourages more Territorians to take up Vocational and Education Training (VET).”

Today’s statistics follow NCVER’s Student Outcomes Survey, which says Territory vocational education and training continues to deliver positive employment outcomes that are among the highest in Australia.

The national survey found that 90 per cent of Territory graduates were employed, or engaged in further study, after their training. This compares with the national average of 89 per cent.

The survey collected information on graduates (students who completed a publicly funded VET course in 2004 and graduated with a qualification), and module completers (students who completed only part of a publicly funded VET course without gaining a qualification and then left the VET system).

Mr Stirling said the results were a sound indication that VET in the Territory was succeeding in providing employers with a skilled, job-ready workforce.

“This report card into VET activity shows we passed with flying colours with 88 per cent of our VET graduates, and 81 per cent of all module completers, satisfied with the overall quality of their training.”

He said VET’s purpose is to equip people with skills that enhance their job prospects and assist them in entering or re-entering the workforce, or in re-training or upgrading their existing skills.