12 September 2008

LOWEST UNEMPLOYMENT RATE ON RECORD

Figures released by the Australian Bureau of Statistics show the Territory recorded its lowest unemployment rate.

“Unemployment is at an all-time low for the Territory at 2.6% and is the lowest in the nation,” Treasurer Delia Lawrie said.

“In the last year almost 4000 more jobs have been created putting more Territorians into employment.

“This is great news for Territorians and shows the benefits of our strong economic growth are flowing through to families.

“The Territory continues to buck national trends with strong business confidence, continued high retail trade figures and strong economic growth forecasts.

“The Territory’s annual trend employment growth rate is 3.7% compared to 2.2% nationally.

“We’ve worked hard to reverse our unemployment figures through our Jobs Plan policies and our sound management of the economy.

“With a strong participation rate, job adverts and forecast employment growth comes the challenge of providing the workers to fill the many jobs.

“Filling skills shortage areas is one of the biggest challenges facing the future growth of the Territory.

“The Henderson Government has already provided 10,000 new apprentices and trainees commencements and we’ve committed to another 10,000 over the next four years to build our workforce of the future.

“We’re working hard to promote jobs opportunities in the Territory – this week the Melbourne NT Jobs Show was held as part of the ongoing Skilled Worker Recruitment Campaign and followed previous shows in Adelaide and Newcastle.

“The Chief Minister also announced the Government’s Workforce Growth NT Unit during the recent election to help build the Territory’s skilled workforce.

“The Henderson Government is listening to Territorians to deliver more initiatives to help deliver more results for the Territory.”

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