Employment and Training Minister Peter Styles met with 20 students today, who are a part of an exciting new training initiative that will offer employment and training for 20 Territorians.

“The young Territorians here today have some big dreams. It is so inspiring to meet them and hear how the Shell Prelude Project is beginning to change their lives,” said Minister for Employment and Training Peter Styles.

“Shell Prelude has invested $400,000, and the Northern Territory Government matched the figure to fund the employment and training program.

“The Department of Business, GTNT (Group Training NT) and Charles Darwin University worked with Shell to develop the employment and training program titled ‘Prelude to the Future’.

“The program employs 20 Territorians, through GTNT, as apprentice mechanics and supports their training through the first year of their apprenticeship – which will be completed in six months.

“GTNT will continue to mentor them throughout the duration of their apprenticeship.

“The Northern Territory Government is committed to supporting Territorians to train for local job opportunities and the Prelude to the Future program is an illustration of how the Giles Government is leveraging such opportunities from major projects.

The program is modelled on innovative initiatives delivered in 2013 and 2014. The recently completed Automotive and Engineering Program delivered in Katherine has resulted in seven of the students already gaining full time employment.

“The 2013 Boilermaker Program earned high praise and went on to win the Training Initiative Award at the 2014 NT Training Awards,” said Minister Styles.

“Providing an opportunity to carve out a career pathway in life is extremely important and the Giles Government understands the impact a program like this can have on a young person’s direction.

“Participants will attend Charles Darwin University full-time during the course of this program. They will complete work placements with local employers and are supported by work-based projects at Charles Darwin University.
Minister Styles said it is expected that Mechanics will be subject to increase demand in coming years, and will be a core contributor to the ongoing operation of onshore marine supply and associated activities.

“Mechanics are identified as a skills shortage area in the Territory, and is an occupation that underpins the delivery of most major project activities,” said Minister Styles.

“This is another example of the NT Government listening to the needs of industry and tailoring suitable programs to help address our workforce demands.

“Prelude to the Future is one of four projects funded under the Prelude Project Social Investment Strategy, and the only funded project in the Northern Territory. The other three projects are based in Western Australia.

“The Department of Business – Training NT division is working closely with industry groups to identify training needs and supporting tailored training programs to help meet those needs,” said Minister Styles.

This has included supporting Fisheries NT to deliver training to Indigenous Marine Rangers across the Territory; coxswain training for Tiwi Islanders; and supporting Master Builders and the Housing Industry Association to upskill construction workers.

For more information on the variety of training initiatives, courses and resources available, please visit [www.dob.nt.gov.au/training](http://www.dob.nt.gov.au/training)

**Media Contact:** Renee Miller: 0407 400 446

**IMAGE ATTACHED:** Apprentices on the Prelude to the Future’ program meet with Minister for Employment and Training Peter Styles, Justin Busse, Head of School of Trades and Kathryn James, CEO of GTNT at Charles Darwin University.

[Apprentices at CDU](#)