Government provides more apprentice places

The number of Jobs Plan incentives available to employers taking on apprentices in skill shortage areas will be increased from 40 to 60 for the first half of this year, Employment, Education and Training Minister Syd Stirling said today.

Mr Stirling said under the Jobs Plan, the Territory Government was providing employers with $7700 to take on an apprentice in traditional trade areas that are experiencing skills shortages.

“The incentives became available last month and the target of 40 has already been exceeded, so we have decided to make more available,” Mr Stirling said.

“The response from business to initiatives available under the Jobs Plan has been very positive and Government is working to accommodate the demand as much as possible.

“The Territory Government recognises that there is an urgent need to equip Territorians with the skills they need to get the jobs that are out there.

“For too long, the Territory has suffered from skills shortages, with businesses having great difficulty in attracting appropriately qualified workers. We want to turn this situation around by providing apprenticeships for Territorians.”

Under Jobs Plan NT, Government is providing an extra $7 million over three years for a range of employer incentives, including the $7700 employer incentive in traditional trades. There is also a $2200 incentive for eligible small businesses taking on new apprentices or trainees.

Government is spending more than $160 million on training and skills development, and support for 7000 apprentices and trainees over the next three years.

Mr Stirling said there were still more than 200 small business employment incentives currently available.

“I would urge small business to look into these incentives and consider taking on an apprentice or trainee.

“It’s a fantastic opportunity for employers to build their workforce. At the same time, young Territorians are being given greater opportunity to develop the skills they need to build a career.”

For more information about employer incentives phone 1300 137 130 or visit www.deet.nt.gov.au