The NT Government has allocated $400,000 to a new competitive tender process designed to address the training needs of the unemployed, the retrenched and the redeployed.

Employment, Education and Training Minister Syd Stirling said calling for Employment Training Submissions was a new, pro-active way to ensure employment training opportunities were tailored to assist people most in need.

"Under the new process, registered training organisations (RTOs) will consult closely with training advisory councils, industry associations, employers and the community in developing appropriate training solutions," Mr Stirling said.

"We’re interested in flexible solutions that meet both market demand and the training needs of those Territorians who don’t have full-time employment or may soon be facing the prospect of not having work."

In the past, the process of stipulating the type of course and the annual hours of curriculum in competitive tenders has not always proved successful. Some successful tenderers found it difficult to fill training places. Similarly, competitive tenders were not aimed at training the unemployed, the redeployed and the retrenched.

"The aim of Employment Training Submissions is to get people back to work or into work," Mr Stirling said.

"The new system of Employment Training Submissions will enable RTOs to tender for training that is in demand by both industry and potential participants."

The Department of Employment, Education and Training will trial the use of Employment Training Submissions in the first six months of 2002 and if the process proves to be successful intends to call for further submissions in the second half of 2002.

The $400,000 allocated to trial the use of Employment Training Submissions are in addition to the $27million the NT Government will spend on recurrent training priorities in 2002.

The tender will be advertised in Thursday’s NT NEWS and next week’s Tuesday edition of the Centralian Advocate. RTOs should contact Brenda Elferink at DEET on 8999 4304 for further information.