1 September 2005

AGREEMENT REACHED ON FEDERAL TRAINING FUNDING

The Territory Government has accepted the Federal Government’s four-year training funding offer, Minister for Employment, Education and Training Syd Stirling announced today.

Mr Stirling said, while he was disappointed with the lack of extra funding provided by the Federal government in the agreement, the Territory Government had accepted the offer because of its commitment to maintaining a national system of training.

“At a time when Australia is facing a significant skills shortage, it is crucial that each jurisdiction and the Federal Government are working together to address this,” Mr Stirling said.

“However, it is disappointing that the Federal Government has provided little in the way of growth funding in light of national skills shortages.

“Under the agreement, the Federal Government will contribute close to $60 million over four years towards training in the Territory.

“The Territory Government is providing well over four times that amount – around $290 million over the next four years. The Territory invests more than any other jurisdiction into training on a proportionate basis.

“We will continue our efforts to build a skilled workforce with a solid investment in training and skills development; and initiatives including the Jobs Plan I and II; employer and employee incentives; and new programs to upskill workers.

“These initiatives are showing signs of success with more Territorians in training than ever before – we are well on track to meet our commitment of supporting the training of 10,000 apprentices and trainees over four years.

“But there is more to do – we will continue to work with industry and local business to build on our training efforts so far.”

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