BUDGET 2007 MAKES SKILLING TERRITORIANS A MAJOR FOCUS

Jobs and skilling Territorians is at the heart of Budget 2007, with the unveiling of the new Jobs Plan 3 strategies today.

Minister for Employment, Education and Training, Paul Henderson, said the new Jobs Plan 3 will receive $21.3 million over the next four years to promote training and employment opportunities for Territorians.

“Jobs Plan 3 includes an extra $8.5 million of new initiatives and refocused initiatives funded under Jobs Plan 1 & 2.

“The Martin Government was the first Territory Government to introduce jobs plans, and they have proven successful in boosting the training and skills of Territorians.

“There are now over 3300 Territorians in training – an increase of 50 per cent since 2001.

“We set the ambitious target of commencing 10 000 new apprentices and trainees starting over four years.

“I’m pleased that we are on track with over 5200 having commenced their training and Jobs Plan 3 is about building on this momentum,” Minister Henderson said.

EMPLOYER INCENTIVES

$1.36 million per year will be provided for employers hiring apprentices in skills shortage areas.

340 occupational shortage incentives valued at $4000 each will be available every year.

Jobs Plan 3 also funds 200 incentives over three years valued at $2 000 to be provided to employers who take on an apprentice or trainee from a disadvantaged group.

BUILDSKILLS NT

$500 000 is provided each year to build on the skills of existing workers through targeted training in identified skills shortage areas.
EMPLOYEE INCENTIVES

Jobs Plan 3 continues the Territory Government’s support for young Territorians who start and continue in their training.

$1000 is provided after the first 3 months training for apprentices in hard to fill skill areas and $300 is provided to all others.

WORKREADY NT

WorkReady is a program that helps Year 11 and 12 students prepare themselves for taking on apprenticeships and traineeships. This Budget provides $200,000 per year to deliver the WorkReady program in high schools to help the Territory build a skilled workforce.

BROADENING THE TRAINING BASE

To ensure that more Territorians are able to enter the workforce, the Government will target groups to prepare them for jobs.

- $1.6 million over three years will be provided for an additional 100 trainee places in the NT Public Sector Traineeship program with a focus on Indigenous people and disadvantaged groups.
- $1 million per annum will be provided to address training and employment needs of Indigenous adults in regional and remote areas.

FUNDING THE TERTIARY SECTOR

The Government will also provide $45 million to Charles Darwin University, with $9.5 million allocated to the Batchelor Institute of Indigenous Tertiary Education to enhance opportunities for people to gain the skills they need for employment.

“Jobs Plan 3 will help business expand by having access to skilled workers,” Minister Henderson said.

“It will also help workers improve their skills and have greater opportunity within our economy.

“Having a job is a big part of having a good lifestyle, and the Martin Government’s Jobs Plan 3 helps secure that great Territory lifestyle,” Minister Henderson said.

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