RECORD NUMBERS OF APPRENTICES, TRAINEES IN TERRITORY

The number of Territorians in apprenticeships and traineeships have increased significantly since 2001, Minister for Employment, Education and Training Syd Stirling told Parliament today.

Mr Stirling said there were currently more than 3200 apprentices and trainees in the Territory – up 47% from 2001.

Since 2001, there has been a 28% increase in the number of people entering apprenticeships and traineeships, up to 2585 in 2004.

There has also been a 65% increase in the number of apprentices and trainees completing their training from 848 in 2001 to 1408 in 2004.

“While these numbers are improving there is more to be done. Getting our young people into apprenticeships and traineeships and completing their training is always a challenge, which is why we have introduced a range of incentives to encourage both employers and apprentices.

“As a result of our initiatives we are seeing growth in our apprentice and trainee commencement numbers and importantly we are keeping more Territorians in training to completion.

“We are also improving the number of Indigenous Territorians taking up apprenticeships and traineeships with 696 commencing in 2004 – a 41% increase over the past four years.

There have also been increases across the regions:
- Alice Springs commencements have risen 11% since 2001 with 480 commencements in 2004
- The Jabiru region has seen an 18% increase with 95 apprentices and trainees starting in 2004
- The Katherine region has seen an increase of around 5% with 198 commencements in 2004
- The Nhulunbuy region has seen an increase of around 5% with 99 commencements in 2004

“There has been a slight drop off in commencements in the Barkly region due to the end of the railway project but there are still 98 people who commenced training in the region in 2004.

“The Department of Employment, Education and Training will be working closely with each of the regions to continue to boost the uptake of apprentices and trainees – particularly in Tennant Creek, Katherine and Nhulunbuy.

“It is particularly good news to see that the number of apprentices taking up traditional trades rising significantly – with commencements up 47% from 218 in 2001 to 679 in 2004. This is good news for the future of trades in the Territory.

“The Martin Government is moving the workforce ahead and we will continue to keep a strong focus on planning and implementation around building a better skilled and responsive workforce.”

Contact: Mary Fall  0401 119 770