



MEDIA RELEASE

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Government skills package offers the chance to reset for a new era of training and jobs

TAFE Directors Australia (TDA) has welcomed the federal government's latest skills and employment package, which will be good news to job seekers and employers as Australia navigates its way back to economic prosperity.

TDA Chief Executive Craig Robertson said the Training Fund and Apprenticeship Support measures announced by the Prime Minister represent new funding into vocational education, which will help to keep apprentices and trainees in work and training.

"One of the more pleasing aspects is the agreement of the national cabinet to this measure," Mr Robertson said.

"All players in vocational education will need to work together to start the huge task of reskilling Australians with new capabilities for what are bound to be different jobs with new expectations," he said.

The JobTrainer package aims to create approximately 340,000 free or low-cost training places for school leavers and people looking for a job. The Commonwealth will contribute \$500 million, to be matched by a further \$500 million, split among the states and territories.

The National Skills Commission will play a critical role in identifying the training that will best meet the needs of the economy as it starts to recover.

Funding for the training places will commence in September and run until June. The government is to be commended for this rapid-fire investment to address the skills challenge.

"Funding will need to be well targeted to ensure all those in training get high quality vocational education so they contribute to Australia's economic recovery," Mr Robertson said.

"Transferable skills will be the key. We cannot be certain about occupational structures or how industries will reshape after such a huge economic shock.

"Core skills that can be applied in many work contexts, and for entrepreneurship, is the best strategy and something the Skills Commissioner has acknowledged," he said.

The apprentice support measures will be good news to an expanded group of businesses that will receive the 50 per cent wage subsidy. This will provide a degree of certainty by extending the current wage subsidy arrangements for a further six months until March next year.

As the public provider with deep training capabilities across all industries and with delivery locations across the nation, TAFEs are the best avenue for the training, especially for core skills and for school leavers who are unsure of their passage into work.

“The last thing Australia needs is to repeat the folly of cheap, low-quality training, which came from previous experiments of unfettered access to public funding to training organisations which exploited unsuspecting Australians,” Mr Robertson said.

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TAFE Directors Australia is the peak national body representing 28 TAFE institutes, including six dual sector universities with TAFE divisions.