Territory on track to meet targets for new apprenticeships

The Northern Territory Government is on track to meeting its goal of reaching 10,000 new apprentice and trainee commencements by 2012 under the JobsNT 2010-2012 strategy.

Chief Minister Paul Henderson joined Minister for Business and Employment Rob Knight to meet new apprentices at Gold Medal Services Berrimah.

“Last year we set the ambitious target of reaching 10,000 new apprentices by 2012 - I'm pleased to say we are ahead of our target with 5,099 people taking up apprenticeships and traineeships as of October this year,” Mr Henderson said.

"Despite facing the significant challenges of the global financial crisis – which many overseas economies are still crippled by – we not only protected Territory jobs – but worked hard to create more jobs.”

Mr Knight said since 2001, the Government had supported the creation of 26,600 new jobs.

“It's not just about creating that one job – each of those jobs have meant a new source of income for a Territory family,” Mr Knight said.

“Our Government worked hard to reduce the unemployment rate from 7.4 per cent under the CLP in 2001 to a rate of 3.1 per cent today.
“We will continue to work hard to create skilled jobs for Territorians and also provide more skilled workers for Territory businesses. This program is a clear example of how we are taking action to support this.”

“We are working directly with schools and employers to make sure we have the right training tools and support systems to keep delivering workers with world class skills to support our growing economy,

Since the Northern Territory Government’s first Job Plan was introduced in 2003:

- More than 2 385 employers have received incentives for taking on apprentices and trainees in identified skilled shortage positions and areas of need.
- More than 8 564 apprentices and trainees have received a Workwear/Workgear bonus to assist them with the costs of commencing their apprenticeship or traineeship.
- The commencements of apprentices and trainees in 2003 was a total of 2 216; in 2009 there was 2 927 commencements, an increase of 32%.
- Importantly the number of trades apprentices in training has more than doubled from 2001 to 1 756 as at October 2010.
- There has been an increase for Indigenous apprentices and trainees in training from 516 in 2001 to 760 as of October 2010, just under 20% of all apprentices and trainees in the Territory.
- As at October 2010, approximately 27 200 additional jobs or just over a 28% increase have been added to the Territory workforce since 2003.

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