



Sharon Grierson MP
Federal Member for Newcastle

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One Week Left for Apprentice Kickstart Program

Federal Member for Newcastle, Sharon Grierson MP, today reminded local businesses that there was only one week left to take advantage of the Rudd Government's Apprentice Kickstart program.

"I urge all employers to make the most of this wonderful program while it is still available," Ms Grierson said.

"With a commencement bonus three times the usual rate, there has never been a more opportune time to take on an apprentice."

The Rudd Government tripled the first year bonus paid to employers putting on an apprentice in a traditional trade from \$1500 to \$4850 over the summer, after apprenticeships in the trades fell by a fifth in the last year.

The bonus is available to employers who hire an apprentice between 1 December 2009 and 28 February 2010, or until 21,000 apprentices have commenced in traditional trades hardest hit by skills shortages identified on the National Skills Needs List.

"This bonus will help local school leavers gain apprenticeships in trades like bricklaying, carpentry, electrical, hairdressing, cookery and welding," said Ms Grierson.

For more information on how to apply contact the Australian Apprenticeships referral line on 13 38 73.

To be eligible, employers must take on a teenage apprentice in a trade on the National Skills Needs List.

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