



THE HON JASON CLARE MP
PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY FOR EMPLOYMENT

SHARON GRIERSON MP
FEDERAL MEMBER FOR NEWCASTLE

MEDIA RELEASE

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Apprentice Kickstart to boost to local apprentices in Newcastle

Newcastle employers are encouraged to take advantage of the extension of the Apprentice Kickstart program which triples the first year apprentice bonus to almost \$5000.

Parliamentary Secretary for Employment Jason Clare said the Rudd Government had extended the initiative which already boosted the recruitment of traditional trade apprenticeship above pre-global recession levels in just one year.

“Apprentice Kickstart has been so successful it smashed its original target of 21,000 with more than 24,000 young people starting an apprenticeship in the traditional trades last summer,” Mr Clare said.

“During the 1990s recession, apprenticeship commencements in key traditional trades fell by more than 30 per cent and it took 13 years to recruit the same number of apprentices again.

“Through Apprentice Kickstart we have done it in one year, rather than 13.

“But we still need more apprentices. That’s why we’re investing almost \$80 million to support around 22,500 new apprenticeship places in traditional trades experiencing skills shortages.

“This funding will be targeted at helping small and medium businesses with fewer than 200 employees put on more apprentices.”

Mr Clare released the figures while meeting an apprentice chef at *Scratchley's on the Wharf* with Newcastle MP Sharon Grierson.

“Over last summer alone 251 apprentices were recruited in Newcastle under the program,” Ms Grierson said.

“Thanks to the efforts of local employers, this program has given a lot of young people a chance.

“I encourage any employer thinking of putting an apprentice on to take advantage of the Apprentice Kickstart program.”

Apprentice Kickstart has been extended for six months, ending on 12 November this year.

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