



**NATIONAL
AUSTRALIAN
APPRENTICESHIP
ASSOCIATION**

Press Release

2017 Federal Budget

A welcome focus on Apprenticeships

The National Australian Apprenticeship Association (NAAA) welcomes the government's focus on apprentices and trainees in the 2017 Federal Budget.

The Treasurer's announcement of Skilling Australians Fund and Industry Specialist Mentoring for Australian Apprentices are measures designed to increase the commencement and completion levels of apprentices and trainees. This is an important focus area since the number of apprentice and trainees has been falling since 2012.

The Industry Specialist Mentoring program will complement the In-Training service currently offered by Australian Apprenticeship Network Providers. It will focus on workers in industries undergoing structural change. Mentoring programs such as this have a proven track record in increasing the completion levels of the apprentices they support. NAAA welcomes input into the final design of this budget measure.

The Skilling Australians Fund will prioritise apprenticeships and traineeships for occupations in high demand, occupations with a reliance on skilled migration pathways, industries and sectors of future growth, trade apprenticeships, and apprenticeships and traineeships in regional and rural areas. The Fund, when matched with funding from the States, will support up to 300,000 more apprentices, trainees, and higher level skilled Australians.

NAAA is looking forward to working with Minister Andrews at its upcoming Roundtable Meeting between the Minister and Network Providers to fully understand how the Fund can be implemented to optimise take-up of Australian Apprenticeships.

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