



## National Australian Apprenticeship Association

### Press Release

#### \$37,000 Apprentice Wage Subsidy

The National Australian Apprenticeships Association (NAAA) warmly welcomes the Federal Government's announcement today to pilot a wage subsidy program for apprentices in regional and remote Australia.

"This is a very generous incentive of up to \$37,000 to eligible employers of apprentices" said Mr Ben Bardon, NAAA CEO. "Apprenticeship Network Providers are strongly supportive of policy measures like this that enable employers to participate in the system for the first time." Mr Bardon said.

It is targeted at small businesses that offer apprenticeship opportunities on the skills needs list in regional and remote Australia. It will help a wide range of businesses that have not employed apprentices before, or those that haven't done so for 3 years or more.

"This will complement the other incentives available to apprentice employers and we anticipate that the 1,620 places will be quickly snapped up when the new program starts on January 1<sup>st</sup> 2019". Mr Bardon said.

The Federal government is to be commended for taking action to alleviate the decline of apprentice commencements in regional areas over recent years. This will certainly make an important difference for the businesses that this pilot program supports.

NAAA has recommended expanding the incentives to first time employers of apprentices as a way to increase the opportunities for young people across Australia.

"This is a really important step in reinvigorating apprenticeship commencements in the bush" Mr Bardon said.

Ends.

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