



**National Australian
Apprenticeship Association**

100,000 Apprentice and Trainee Wage Subsidy Places

Press Release

The National Australia Apprenticeship Association (NAAA) warmly welcomes the Morrison government's announcement that a wage subsidy will be provided to employers who start or recommence an apprentice in the year ahead.

The Supporting Apprentices and Trainees (SAT) measures already underway support existing apprentices. Today's announcement extends that to new commencements and for suspended or cancelled apprentices that recommence.

"This is a vital measure to secure the record investment the government has already made in apprenticeships this year" said Ben Bardon CEO of NAAA. "It's the missing piece of the skills pipeline puzzle" he said.

"This is because the current measures have stabilised existing apprentices, but the total level would have continued to fall as apprentices complete their qualifications, were suspended or cancelled. Without this announcement "In-Training" levels would have fallen to 215,000 by June next year" said Mr Bardon.

"We need around 320,000 apprentices and trainees to avoid skills shortages as we start the recovery". Mr Bardon said.

The Australian Apprenticeship Support Network assists all apprentices, trainees and employers in Australia. So far this year the seven Apprenticeship Network Providers have processed 132,000 (SAT) claims that have paid half the wages of existing apprentices and trainees up to a maximum of \$7,000 per quarter.

The program has been a great success and it will also be an important tool for employers of apprentices that will see JobKeeper arrangements tapered back in the months ahead and need to use the SAT measure instead.

"The additional 100,000 wage subsidy places will provide employers with the certainty they need to give school leavers a start in the year ahead" Ben said.

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