



## **Extension of Boosting Apprenticeship Commencements**

### **Building on success**

The Association warmly welcomes the Treasurer's announcement today that the Boosting Apprenticeship Commencement program is to be extended to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022.

Over 130,000 apprentices and trainees have commenced in the program since it began on 5<sup>th</sup> October last year. The extension will support an estimated 170,000 new commencements between now and March next year.

Under the extension the program remains uncapped, and support will be extended for 12 months from the time an apprentice starts.

"Members of the Australian Apprenticeship Support Network have increased their staff by 35% to ensure the success of this program. That's an additional 355 staff since October" said Ben Bardon CEO of NAAA.

Around 60% of the additional staff are helping employers with their claims and 40% of staff are meeting with employers to promote and help engage with the program.

"The network celebrates its 23<sup>rd</sup> Birthday this month and this is the most successful program we've had the pleasure to support" Ben said. "It's the boost the apprenticeship system needs". He said.

The Australian Apprenticeship Support Network is comprised of seven organisations that assist all apprentices, trainees and their employers in Australia. The network operates from over 130 offices nationwide and offers free targeted services such as a recruitment (Gateway) and mentoring (In-Training support).

The Association congratulates the Morrison government on extending Gateway places to provide additional assistance for 5,000 young women taking up a non-traditional trade.

"These measures demonstrate the flexibility of the support arrangements to meet national economic and social priorities". Mr Bardon said

End

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