



**National Australian  
Apprenticeship Association**

## **Apprentices to benefit from budget measures.**

### **Press Release**

The 23-24 federal budget included a welcome boost to apprenticeship support services funding, taking total investment to \$1.1 billion over the next five years. This represents an increase of \$54.3m which will be used to rebalance and strengthen assistance for apprentices and trainees by implementing a new model of support.

Key features of the new model are:

- Structured assessment on commencement and earlier referral to the specialist services apprentices need to succeed.
- Enhanced mentoring for apprentices and trainees with additional barriers to completion, such as women in non-traditional trades and first nations apprentices
- More face to face contact with apprentices to check on progress, especially in the first two years.
- Specialist supports for apprentices in key priority areas such as having a pipeline of skilled workers to reach Net Zero targets.
- Increasing participation of women in non-traditional trades, with annual increases in participation through the Australian Skills Guarantee
- Streamlined claims processing and program administration through the Apprenticeship Data Management System.

“The new model will see Services Australia removed from the processing of incentive claims, an initiative of the previous government that made an already complex system more confusing for employers and apprentices” said Ben Bardon CEO of NAAA.

“The Association welcomes the additional investment and focus on rebalancing the system after pandemic measures targeted at creating more opportunities for apprentices and trainees through generous employer incentives,” said Mr. Bardon

“Now is the right time to enhance completion rates by addressing specific barriers apprentices and trainees face” Mr. Bardon said.

The new model will also redesign the Skills for Education and Employment (SEE) program enabling apprentices and trainees to access the service for their language, literacy, numeracy, and digital skills needs.

“The budget measures announced tonight respond to an extensive and ongoing process of consultation, thoughtfully integrating additional supports for those most in need. They form part of building a stronger, more responsive skills and training sector fit for purpose to support our economic transitions ahead,” said Mr. Bardon.

End

Contact Ben Bardon 0408 656 928