



John Barilaro
Deputy Premier
Minister for Regional NSW
Minister for Skills
Minister for Small Business

MEDIA RELEASE

Tuesday 29 August 2017

VET ‘DOORS OF OPPORTUNITY’ OPEN FOR NATIONAL SKILLS WEEK

Deputy Premier and Minister for Skills John Barilaro today attended the Western Sydney Apprenticeship and Traineeship Expo at Penrith Panthers to launch a new NSW Government campaign aimed at busting the myths around Vocational Education and Training (VET) for young people.

Mr Barilaro, a former tradesman himself, said it was great to be able to launch the “Doors of Opportunity” VET campaign as part of National Skills Week.

“NSW has Australia’s best performing VET sector - our students, apprentices and trainees are earning while they learn and getting trained for the jobs of the future.

“The campaign is about helping students, parents, teachers and employers across the state better understand VET as a credible alternative to university.

“For too long VET has taken a back-seat when it comes to students’ choices and it’s time to change that perception

Mr Barilaro said VET can open opportunities in diverse careers from healthcare and cybersecurity to agriculture, tourism or a traditional trade.

“VET graduates get into work sooner, get paid more and can train for occupations predicted to have the greatest new job growth over the next five years, like information technology, health and aged care and hospitality.

“In fact a recent Skilling Australia report showed VET is actually a more certain pathway to employment than university and offers better prospects for higher pay.

“Some 78 per cent of VET graduates are employed after training versus 69 per cent for university graduates – and, on average, VET graduates also earn \$2,000 more.

“We have done the work over the past three years to overhaul our VET system and our hard work is paying off with strong growth of nearly 40 per cent in the number of people taking on VET in NSW last year,” he said.

National Skills Week takes place from 28 August - 1 September
More information: <https://vet.nsw.gov.au/>

MEDIA: Ellie Laing | Deputy Premier | 0427 066 603