



Greg Aplin MP
Member for Albury

MEDIA RELEASE

Monday, 18 June 2018

NSW BUDGET: 100,000 FREE APPRENTICESHIPS

Member for Albury, Greg Aplin today announced there will be an unprecedented level of support for apprentices in the 2018 NSW Budget, with the NSW Government to offer 100,000 free apprenticeships, to ensure there is a strong pipeline of skilled workers across the state.

Mr Aplin said this new \$285 million skills and training package means that as of next month, free apprenticeships will be offered to newly enrolled apprentices in any course.

“Today’s announcement is all about building up the workforce that will help us capitalise on our record infrastructure program, and in turn deliver a generation of skilled workers,” Mr Aplin said.

“The NSW initiative applies to all apprentices, training with all types of training providers, and applies to all student fees, in recognition that all apprenticeships are vital to keeping NSW businesses moving. It is a targeted initiative designed to meet the needs of NSW.

“This on top of the NSW Government already offering all pre-apprenticeship and pre-traineeship training for free and the 200,000 scholarships provided to those most in need – compared to the limited 18 pre-apprenticeship courses offered in the recent Victorian budget.

“As a government, we have already created the positions for apprentices, by ensuring 20 per cent of trade roles on all future government projects will be filled by apprentices, and now we are covering the cost of their training,” Mr Aplin said.

Deputy Premier and Minister for Skills John Barilaro said NSW needs more apprentices to ensure we have a strong pipeline of skilled workers for the NSW job market.

“We know that without skilled workers, our economy will stall,” Mr Barilaro said.

“The single biggest threat to our \$80.1 billion infrastructure spending program is not having the workforce to deliver it. You can have the money to spend, but if you don’t have the skilled workers to actually bring the projects to life, it all counts for nothing.

“As an ex-tradie turned Skills Minister, it is extremely rewarding to be delivering this free training opportunity, particularly for our youngest workers.

“This sort of free training offer has never been made before, so I encourage people thinking about skilling up, or starting a new career to make the most of it,” he said.

The 100,000 free apprenticeships will be on offer over the next four years and include all 121 courses currently funded under the Smart and Skilled program.

For more information including details about how to enroll from July 1, go to the Smart and Skilled website at: <https://smartandskilled.nsw.gov.au/>

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