



Greg Aplin MP
Member for Albury

MEDIA RELEASE

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TRADIES FLOCK TO FEE-FREE APPRENTICESHIPS

Apprentices undertaking their training in NSW are already benefitting from the NSW Government's fee-free apprenticeship package, only two months after its launch. Member for Albury, Greg Aplin said fee-free apprenticeships will allow 100,000 apprentices throughout NSW to study and train for a fulfilling career while also addressing the State's skills shortages.

"Since the program launched on 1 July, 17 new apprentices have started training at TAFE in this region. State-wide, 2656 people have already seized the opportunity to take up a trade.

"The NSW economy is humming and, as a result, NSW has the best jobs market in the nation. We're seeing record numbers of jobs being created, and we want to make sure we are equipping a workforce with the skills industry will need in the future.

"Under the fee-free apprenticeship program new apprentices can study for free, attracting skilled workers into our booming jobs market and giving a generation of tradies a head start in their careers.

"Fee-free apprenticeships benefit both students and employers and I encourage anyone thinking about upskilling or starting a new career to consider their options under the program and with TAFE NSW," Mr Aplin said.

Minister for Skills John Barilaro said there are more than 120 different fee-free apprenticeship courses on the NSW Governments Smart and Skilled list in a range of industries.

"As a former chippie, I know the work and lifestyle benefits of taking up a trade. It's extremely rewarding to see thousands of new apprentices take advantage of the fee-free program and follow a VET pathway," Mr Barilaro said.

"This is a major milestone for the state and shows we are on the way to building an army of apprentices to tackle the booming infrastructure program in NSW.

"These fee-free apprenticeships will change the lives of working Australian's and give them skills and opportunities they can take through their lives," Mr Barilaro said.

Minister for TAFE Adam Marshall said fee-free apprenticeships will ensure students across NSW, particularly in the regions, can train for the job they want.

"Across the State we're seeing more local students taking up the opportunity to get free apprenticeship training with TAFE NSW so they can get a job and help build the infrastructure of tomorrow," Mr Marshall said.

"This scheme is a win-win for budding tradies, employers and TAFE NSW."

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