



MEDIA RELEASE

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ALP apprentice and trainee policy a good start

New measures to increase opportunities for apprentices and trainees in Western Australia's government projects must also detail strategies for recruiting and skilling them.

The Australian Council for Private Education and Training (ACPET) welcomed news that, if elected, the ALP would introduce legislation to guarantee that trainees and apprentices were given opportunities on government projects and works.

ACPET CEO Rod Camm said ACPET was very concerned about the rapidly declining number of apprentices and trainees across the nation and particularly in WA.

"Apprenticeships in WA dropped 33.4 per cent over the year to June 2016 against a national decline of 10.5 per cent and nationally traineeship numbers are at their lowest level in almost two decades," he said.

"We urgently need a strategy to boost numbers in WA and welcome any effort to encourage employers to take on local young people as apprentices and trainees and support their skill development."

Mr Camm said the ALP's policy announcement suggested that legislation would call on companies bidding for government work to identify how many apprentices and trainee positions will be created from their work.

"This is an important first step but, in addition to the numbers, we would also like to see more detail about how companies can recruit and develop the skills of these young people," he said.

"The targeted increase in apprentice and trainee numbers must be supported by a comprehensive and coordinated skilling strategy so we can ensure that these young people have access to high quality training leading to sustainable employment opportunities."

Mr Camm said ACPET's WA members were well placed to assist government and employers with advice on skills strategies and flexible delivery to meet needs of projects.

"The apprenticeship and traineeship model has been tried and tested and is an excellent approach to develop the skills we need to underpin economic growth in Western Australia," he said.

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Rod Camm is available for interview. Please phone the SAS Group on 07 3221 9222, or directly on 0409 484 051.