MEDIA RELEASE

6 April 2011

Jobs Fund supporting employment in Western Australia

A Perth educational institution is improving employment prospects for young apprentices and providing new infrastructure for a community service, with the help of the Australian Government’s Jobs Fund.

Minister for Employment Participation Kate Ellis today visited Polytechnic West’s Jobs Fund project at Palmerston Farm, a residential rehabilitation facility south of Perth that cares for people with substance abuse problems.

“This project captures the essence of the Jobs Fund – delivering important community infrastructure while improving local employment prospects,” Ms Ellis said.

“It has already created 18 jobs and provided support and work experience opportunities for more than 150 apprentices and pre-apprentices.”

The project offers young people in apprenticeships or pre-apprenticeship training the chance to gain work experience in construction, while helping build new facilities for Palmerston Farm.

The project is funded for $780,000 under the Local Jobs stream of the Jobs Fund.

Ms Ellis toured the building site at Palmerston Farm and met apprentices who are helping complete a new administration building and a classroom. A transitional residential house built off-site is currently being prepared for transportation to the Farm.

“These buildings will allow residents who have completed initial treatment at the Palmerston Farm to continue living there to gain confidence in re-engaging with the community and increase their job prospects,” Ms Ellis said.
“The Jobs Fund helps provide much needed facilities and services to the local community, while allowing job seekers to gain meaningful employment, training and work experience.”

Local Member of Federal Parliament Gary Gray said that Western Australia was benefiting from 10 Jobs Fund projects with almost $8 million in funding. Five of these projects are in the South West Perth Priority Employment Area, which includes Rockingham, Kwinana and Mandurah.

“Rockingham and Kwinana has some of the highest levels of unemployment in Western Australia. These extra investments are crucial if we are going to turn around that statistic,” Mr Gray said.

“Getting people back into work is essential and the Australian Government understands that some people need a little extra help to gain the skills they need to re-enter the workforce.

“Programs like this one provide a vital service to our community. They get people back into work, give them the skills that need to succeed in the job market and help them reach their potential.”

The projects include the Salvation Army’s Kwinana Community Men’s Shed and two employment projects run by the Western Australian Council of Social Service. These four projects alone have already created or retained 130 jobs and helped more than 150 apprentices to continue training in their trades.

Nationally, Jobs Fund projects are expected to result in around 7,800 jobs, 2,200 traineeships and apprenticeships as well as 4,800 work experience opportunities.

Under the Get Communities Working and Local Jobs streams of the program, $132 million has been announced for 172 projects across Australia in Round 1, and $39 million to 53 projects in Round 2.

The full list of Jobs Fund projects and further information about the program is available at: www.keepaustraliaworking.gov.au/jobsfund

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