MEDIA RELEASE

GTA is the national peak body representing the network of over 150 Group Training Organisations (GTOs) employing apprentices and trainees throughout Australia.

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Commonwealth’s commitment to maintain funding for group training’s role in skills development applauded

Group Training Australia (GTA) today welcomed the decision of the Federal Government to maintain funding for a critically-important program that will help thousands of young Australians to obtain the skills needed to gain employment.


The scheme is a joint program between the Commonwealth and the states, and provides funding to group training organisations (GTOs) which employ approximately 35,000 apprentices and trainees across Australia. It assists GTOs to manage the placement of these apprentices and trainees to 100,000 host employers and ensures they receive appropriate training.

In July, the NSW Government made a shock announcement that its funding for the scheme in NSW would be axed.

The Chief Executive of Group Training Australia (GTA), Jim Barron, said the Commonwealth’s decision to maintain funding is a very welcome step for group training organisations, and the apprentices, trainees, small businesses and the communities in which they work.

“After the setback experienced as a result of the NSW government decision, the Commonwealth’s funding commitment is exceptionally good news, and will be warmly welcomed in the VET sector.

“Minister Evans’ decision means that group training organisations, host employers and the apprentices and trainees will breathe a sigh of relief, and will be able to continue to develop the skills needed to build a clever, prosperous economy. The Minister deserves great credit,” Mr Barron said.

“We also call on the NSW and Tasmanian governments to review their decisions to pull out of the joint funding of the program, and all other state governments to commit to ongoing joint funding.

“The scheme has been in place for many years. It has been supported by all major political parties and accepted as a key element in helping employers, particularly small to medium sized businesses, to take on apprentices and trainees, and assist them to complete their training and find sustainable employment.

“The NSW and Tasmanian governments have taken a backward step in regard to the training and skills development of young people, and they would earn great credit by reversing such a retrograde decision.

“In tight budgetary circumstances, the Commonwealth decision is a strong vote of confidence in the role of group training. We applaud the Minister for his commitment and for his continued support of...
group training and the thousands of young people who will benefit from this decision,” Mr Barron said.

Group Training Australia is the national peak body representing the network of over 150 Group Training Organisations (GTOs) employing apprentices and trainees throughout Australia. GTA was recently awarded the Council of Small Business Organisations of Australia (COSBOA) Small Business Champion Award 2010.

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