



# Mark Speakman MP

## Parliamentary Secretary for Tertiary Education and Skills

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### MEDIA RELEASE

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Monday 17 March 2014

### **NEW AGREEMENT TO BOOST APPRENTICESHIP AND TRAINEE COMPLETIONS**

Parliamentary Secretary for Tertiary Education and Skills Mark Speakman today welcomed the signing of a new agreement aimed at increasing apprenticeship and traineeship completion rates in NSW.

Mr Speakman said the Memorandum of Understanding between TAFE NSW and the Group Training Association (GTA) of NSW and ACT will see the two organisations work more closely together.

“The agreement is an example of the innovation emerging in the NSW training sector to meet the changing needs of individuals and the new demands of industry,” Mr Speakman said.

“The National Centre for Vocational Education Research advises that fewer than 65% of apprentices and trainees complete their training contract. TAFE NSW and GTA are the organisations best placed to lift that figure.”

Under the MOU, the two training organisations have pledged:

- to discuss opportunities for greater collaboration;
- to explore options for better reporting on attendance of apprentices and trainees;
- to review how outcomes for students and employers can be maximised through the TAFE and Group Training Organisation network; and
- to improve assessment validation.

“Under the MOU the two organisations will be able to share information to ensure that their respective organisations are delivering value to both students and employers,” Mr Speakman said.

Mr Speakman attended the MOU signing with TAFE NSW – South Western Sydney Institute Director Peter Roberts, the Chairman of the Group Training Association of NSW and ACT, Michael Bennett, and the Association’s Executive Officer, Naomi Dinnen.

TAFE NSW trains more than 30,000 apprentices and trainees annually across its 10 regional institutes and 130 colleges.

Members of the Group Training Association of NSW and ACT employ more than 8,000 apprentices and trainees and provide employment across a wide range of industries.

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