

# Media Release

## Jobs For Cairns' Youth Despite Record Unemployment

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With unemployment at 12.5% in Cairns and seemingly climbing, many young people and their parents are worried about the lack of career opportunities. However, there are options for young people looking for an apprenticeship according to Cairns-based Skill360 Australia, the nation's foremost not-for-profit group training organisation.

Skill360 Australia has teamed-up with local employers to help young people find work, and there are currently some twenty-three apprenticeships and traineeships available across the Cairns region in areas including automotive, baking, business administration, commercial cookery and warehousing. These are all advertised on the Skill360 Australia website at [www.skill360.com.au](http://www.skill360.com.au)

"This is a good news story for Cairns. Despite unemployment reaching recession levels, that there are still businesses looking to take on an apprentice says a lot about their confidence in Cairns over the medium to long term," said Troy Williams, Chief Executive Officer of Skill360 Australia.

According to Mr Williams, as the school year enters the final phase it is also time for Year 12 students to consider their career options and act, particularly if they are looking to enter a trade rather than go into university.

"Competition to secure an apprenticeship will get very tough in the early part of next year as the ranks of those looking for work are swelled by school-leavers. Our advice is that school-leavers seeking an apprenticeship or traineeship should talk to prospective employers now," Mr Williams said.

Students looking to take up a TAFE course in areas such as business administration or tourism should also look at an apprenticeship or traineeship which combines work with study. Skill360 Australia is currently advertising jobs vacancies that lead to qualifications in business administration and tourism.

"Apprenticeships and traineeships allow people to combine work and study, an attractive option for many. It's a great outcome, people are paid to get a meaningful qualification," Mr Williams said.

For local businesses wanting to take on an apprentice or trainee, Skill360 Australia saves business time and money – they make apprenticeships easy.

"Skill360 Australia helps businesses, both large and small, take on an apprentice for a few months or the duration of their training. We take care of complicated issues such as interpreting Awards, calculating leave entitlements and managing training schedules." Mr Williams said.

Skill360 Australia offers these services as a government-endorsed Group Training Organisation, and has twenty-five years experience in making apprenticeships easy for Cairns' businesses. Prospective job seekers and employers wanting more information can visit the website at [www.skill360.com.au](http://www.skill360.com.au)

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