

Media Release

Businesses Urged To Kickstart 2010 With An Apprentice

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Businesses across Australia are being encouraged to kick start the new year with an apprentice by Skill360 Australia, a Queensland success story which is the nation's foremost industry-based, nonprofit provider of apprenticeships and vocational training services.

"It's been a rough year or two and taking on an apprentice is a great way to send out a positive message about the confidence in our community and the year ahead," said Troy Williams, Chief Executive Officer of Skill360 Australia.

Over the past eighteen months there has been a significant downturn in the number of apprenticeship and traineeship commencements. Data released earlier this month by the National Centre for Vocational Education Research (NCVER) showed that the number of people commencing a trade apprenticeship or traineeship decreased by 27.3% in the twelve months to June 2009, and many experts expect that this trend to have continued throughout the latter part of 2009. Skill360 Australia believes that this downward trend will level-out in the first half of 2010, with apprentice and trainee commencements to grow in the second half of the year.

"Although many businesses across Australia will continue to do it tough throughout 2010, there are signs of an economic recovery underway. It's at this time in the economic cycle that wise business make an investment in skills development as the apprentices and trainees will be completing their qualifications just as business activity reaches full strength," said Troy Williams, Chief Executive Officer of Skill360 Australia

According to Skill360 Australia, it has never been a better time for businesses across Australia to make an investment in skills, particularly given assistance from the Australian Government such as the KickStart Apprentice Bonus. The Group Training Organisation is encouraging businesses to kick start the new year by taking on an apprentice.

"Along with assistance in completing the complex government paperwork, providing guidance to the employer and mentoring the apprentice, Skill360 Australia is able to provide local employers with a cash incentives of \$3,350 when they take on an apprentice in a traditional area," Mr Williams said.

With the support of the Australian Government, Skill360 Australia is able to offer local employers cash incentives of \$3,350 when taking on an apprentice. The Apprentice Kickstart Bonus is a total of \$3,350 paid in installments of: \$850 paid at the three month point of the apprenticeship; and \$2,500 paid at the nine month point of the apprenticeship. The bonus is available to apprentices commencing between 1 December 2009 and 28 February 2010.

"Skill360 Australia is encouraging businesses to kickstart 2010 by taking on an apprentice," Mr Williams concluded.

Businesses wanting to take on a trainee should contact Skill360 Australia on 1300 933 158. A not-for-profit government-endorsed Group Training Organisation, Skill360 Australia delivers its employment and training services on a carbon-neutral basis.

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