

MEDIA RELEASE

National Skills Week aims to help with the challenges facing youth, parents, students and job seekers

- **JobOutlook.com.au matches skills with careers**
- **School-based Apprenticeships & Traineeships allows students to earn while you study**
- **Skills Transfer, Upskilling, Reskilling can lead to re-employment post-Covid**
- **National Skills Week: 24 – 30 August 2020**

Sydney, 10 August 2020 – Young people aged 15-24 have been hardest hit by Covid-19 job losses, accounting for around 45 per cent of the total decline in employment in May, according to a new report released recently by the National Skills Commission.

The ABS recorded for the month of June, youth unemployment surged to 16.4 per cent . the highest levels in a generation and almost 30 years - fuelling concerns for the long-term impact on the mental and physical health of young Australians.

In line with this, **National Skills Week** supported by the Federal Government this year seeks to help alleviate unemployment anxieties and uncertainties being experienced by many school students, Year 12 pupils, parents and young Australians generally - shining a light on jobs in demand over the next five years and training available to obtain them.

These include cyber security and IT, STEM, manufacturing, and healthcare among others.

National Skills Week Chair Brian Wexham says the week aims to raise awareness of these in-demand areas, of the diversity of vocational education and training (VET) and career opportunities available, the pathways in which to access these courses and careers, and the important role they play in Australia's economic recovery.

National Skills Week plays a central role in assisting parents and students as to the many and varied careers out there for young people and asking them to think about matching their passions and skill strengths with career outcomes,+Mr Wexham said.

Pre-COVID-19, National Skills Week represented a great opportunity for young Australians and their parents to attend a wide range of events, careers expos and skills shows . all of them allowing government and industry to showcase the multitude of rewarding careers and jobs obtainable through vocational education and training.

This year, we don't have that luxury and we're very mindful that parents, school leavers or students in year 10 or 11 may be experiencing additional anxiety in not knowing where to receive the proper information . all still easily accessible but delivered in different ways.



JobOutlook matches skills with career options

Mr Wexham said the Government's new **JobOutlook.com.au** website does precisely that.

%durge every young person, parent/guardian to go to the JobOutlook website and enter your skills and passions and see the myriad of career options open to you.

%ts a highly useful, insightful, interactive website which provides jobseekers, school leavers or anyone seeking information on careers to obtain practical, valuable information on training and career pathways.

The website also highlights industries with the **largest job growth** predicted in the next five years such as Healthcare and Social Assistance (increasing by 252,600), Professional, Scientific and Technical Services (172,400), Education and Training (129,300) and Construction (113,700). Together, these four industries are forecast to provide more than three-fifths (or 62.1 per cent) of total employment growth over the five years to May 2024.

JobTrainer fund to provide ongoing support to an additional 340,700 training places

Recently, the Morrison Government announced a significant investment of \$2 billion to give hundreds of thousands of Australians access to new skills, and to support tens of thousands of apprentices and trainees in jobs.

The new \$1 billion JobTrainer fund will provide up to an **additional 340,700 training places** to help school leavers and job seekers access short courses to develop new skills in growth sectors and create a pathway to more qualifications. Courses will be free or low cost in areas of identified need, with the Federal Government providing \$500 million with matched contributions from State and Territory governments.

JobTrainer is focused on getting people into jobs and will ensure more Australians have the chance to reskill or upskill to fill the jobs on the other side of this crisis.

The Government also announced an additional **\$1.5 billion to expand the wage subsidy** to help keep apprentices and trainees in work. It builds on the \$1.3 billion package announced in March.

In addition to small businesses already covered, the wage subsidy will be expanded to medium sized businesses with less than 200 employees for apprentices employed as at 1 July 2020. Around 180,000 apprentices and the 90,000 small and medium businesses that employ them will now be supported, with the program extended by six months to the end of March 2021.

The 50 per cent wage subsidy up to \$7,000 per quarter will provide critical support to keep apprentices in jobs and recognises the commitment and investment they have already made to their training.

School-based apprenticeships & traineeships allow students to earn while you study

School-based apprenticeships and traineeships allow high school students (typically years 10 to 12) to work as paid employees and train towards a recognised qualification while completing secondary school.

In 2018, the National Centre for VET Research (NCVER) reported there were 18,200 school-based apprenticeships and traineeships completed nationally, while more than 212,000

students completed other VET in Schools programs. Currently, there are 260,000 VET students in training in Australia.

Mr Wexham says school-based apprenticeships and traineeships are an excellent option for students wishing to earn while they learn. **In 2019, almost 90 per cent of apprentices or trainees were employed following the completion of their training** (source: NCVET).

Apprenticeships can take between 36 to 48 months and include trades such as building and construction, plumbing, tiling, commercial cookery, automotive, engineering, manufacturing, among others. Whereas, traineeships take between 12 and 24 months and include service industries such as business, retail, community health, childcare, hair and beauty, financial services and more.

Students can gain fundamental workplace skills leading to increased job opportunities and earning potential in the future. They can also choose from a wide range of nationally recognised apprenticeship and traineeship qualifications across all industries.

An apprentice carpenter for instance would have earned around \$120,000 at the completion of a four year apprenticeship . as opposed to the average university student who completes a degree with little or no practical work experience and with up to a \$30,000 or higher HECs debt,+he said. The prospects of employment following study or training are significantly higher in skills-based training, offering a great path to employment,+he added.

Further, if students complete a qualification while at school and decide they do want to go to university, their training may be accredited towards their education, meaning they may become qualified faster.

Skills Transfer, Upskilling, Reskilling can lead to re-employment post-Covid

Looking at what skills are transferable from one industry to another is also important, particularly for those facing unemployment in industries hardest hit such as tourism, aviation, hospitality, creative arts and entertainment and sports and recreation,+Mr Wexham said.

Focusing on skilling and reskilling workers, we can better connect job seekers with ways to help get them back into employment.

Identifying the jobs in demand and training jobseekers to fill those jobs but also with a view to the long-term . education and training are key to helping Australia's labour market and economy recover.+

National Skills Week this year runs from **24 – 30 August**.

For further information, visit nationalskillsweek.com.au or joboutlook.com.au.

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