

## MEDIA RELEASE

### **Apprenticeships and traineeships key to Australia's post COVID-19 recovery**

#### **Apprenticeship Support Australia announced as a major sponsor of National Skills Week 2021**

**3 August 2021** – Leading industry body, Apprenticeship Support Australia (ASA) has cited the employment of apprentices and trainees as key to Australia recovering from the pandemic, while announcing its sponsorship of the upcoming federally supported, National Skills Week 2021 from 23 to 29 August.

National Skills Week encourages Australians to 'rethink' and explore the many vocational career pathways as Australia's economy recovers from the pandemic. **National Skills Week Chair, Brian Wexham, says**, "there has never been a more pivotal time to get the message out there to job seekers and school leavers on the importance of gaining a skill, in particular apprenticeships and traineeships," Mr Wexham said.

As commented by **Lee Xavier, National General Manager of Apprenticeship Support Australia**, "apprentices and trainees are the skilled workers our businesses and economy will rely on in the future, which is why investing in skills is a key focus for Australia's economic recovery plan".

Founded in 2014, **Apprenticeship Support Australia's** services as an Apprenticeship Network Provider, are focused on lifting apprenticeship commencement and completion rates through the provision of support at every stage of the employment cycle.

Jobseekers, school students, apprentices and trainees can all receive ongoing support including career advice, job matching, and ongoing mentoring and support.

"These services are not just available to our apprentices and trainees, but the employers we work with also have access to a plethora of services", said Mr Xavier.

"Our innovative careers hub, **[Skillsroad.com.au](https://www.skillsroad.com.au)**, is regarded as Australia's number one destination for independent career advice."

This free website offers a Career Quiz, over 350 career profiles, 360 Virtual Workplace, a Job-Fit test to assess work-readiness and career compatibility and other online tools and resources for students and job-seekers as well as their parents, teachers and employers.

Mr Xavier said the service also offer employers holistic business-wide training advice and can assist in recommending suitable qualifications, advice on how to access Government funding for training, help with matching and recruitment of new staff, as well as ongoing coaching, mentoring and support of apprentices and trainees.

“We essentially help parents, school leavers, job-seekers – anyone looking to start an apprenticeship or traineeship – understand how they can get pursue a career pathway and help them explore the myriad of opportunities they may not know exist”, added Mr Xavier.

“For employers, there are many subsidies available to them and they change all the time, so we assist them through this process too,” continued Mr Xavier. “The Federal Government’s Boosting Apprenticeships Commencements wage subsidy is an significant investment by the Australian Government in the Australian Apprenticeship sector to support all businesses and all employers”.

Across the country, ASA have over 300 staff and provide help to tens of thousands of Australian Apprentices and employers every year, assisting in the placement of apprenticeships and traineeships.

Now moving into its eleventh year, **National Skills Week 2021** encourages Australians to ‘rethink’ and explore the many vocational career pathways as Australia’s economy recovers from the pandemic.

There are a wide range of industries currently crying out for apprentices and trainees, with unprecedented demand and no workers to meet that demand.

**National Skills Week 2021 will be launched by The Hon. Minister Stuart Robert, Minister for Employment, Workforce, Skills, Small and Family Business of Australia during the week from 23-29 August via virtual link.**

For more information, visit [www.nationalskillsweek.com.au](http://www.nationalskillsweek.com.au)

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**Notes to editors:**

**About National Skills Week**

- National Skills Week (NSWk) is an annual event now entering its 11th year.

- This year it will be held from 23 August to 29 August.
- Dedicated to raising the profile and status of practical and vocational learning, the week also aims to dispel outdated ideas about vocational education and training (VET).
- By providing a greater understanding of the opportunities available through VET, it helps Australians better recognise how they can contribute to a successful, modern economy.
- This year's theme is **RE-THINK**
- Working within the restrictions imposed by COVID-19 and the need to maximise safety for all, a wide range of online, digital and physical events will take place for 2021.
- National Skills Week is an initiative of SkillsOne Television and is supported by Australian, State and Territory Governments, along with leading corporate partners and sponsors.
- As the founder, SkillsOne has worked consistently with stakeholders to help the Federal Government address national skills and labour demands and challenges, and to provide opportunities for Australians young and old to benefit from a growth economy.

### **WHY NATIONAL SKILLS WEEK 2021 IS IMPORTANT**

- 2021 Federal Budget emphasises the necessity for training in high-demand sectors as well as new careers as the Australian Government attempts to drive down unemployment.
- A large part of addressing this issue is providing ample education and information about the career and training possibilities and opportunities that are available to all Australians.
- National Skills Week provides an energetic national platform to convey positive messages through multiple platforms, conveying a tone of motivation, inspiration and potential to students, parents, jobseekers and their influencers.