

### **Extra pre-vocational training support for young job seekers**

The Australian Government is investing \$30.2 million for additional pre-vocational support places to help vulnerable young people into an apprenticeship or further training.

In 2009-10 an additional 3650 pre-vocational training places will be available to young people aged 19 – 24 years through the Australian Apprenticeships Access Program (the Access Program). Funding will also be provided to improve the delivery of the Access Program.

The Access Program provides a pathway into an apprenticeship or further training and includes pre-vocational training and other supports to help job seekers who may need some extra assistance to prepare them for an apprenticeship.

By supporting job seekers into apprenticeship and vocational qualifications, the Government is making a strong contribution to lifting the skill base and job readiness of individuals vulnerable in an economic downturn. Investing in a skilled workforce will also benefit industry as the economy recovers.

### **What support will be provided through these extra training places?**

The additional places in the Access Program will enable more vulnerable young people to be assisted into skilled employment pathways and/or further training.

The Access Program provides participants with individualised support to achieve successful transitions into training and skilled employment.

All participants in the program receive:

- a minimum of 150 hours pre-vocational training;
- up to 13 weeks job search support; and
- together with the employer, 13 weeks post-placement support in an apprenticeship, further training or employment.

### **What improvements have been made to the Access Program?**

The improved Access Program, whilst retaining the major elements of the existing Program, will introduce:

- new time-limited incentives for brokers to place participants in a Certificate III qualification course or above in the Productivity Places Program in 2009-10;
- a 10% increase in the number of successes for which payment will be made under the Program; and
- a modest increase in broker outcome payments.

Funding will also be allocated to establish a Pre-Vocational Training and Support Research Fund to generate an evidence base for further development of pre-vocational training policy and program delivery. The fund will also investigate innovative, tailored approaches to pre-employment and pre-training initiatives which can better support job seekers by ensuring they have the foundation skills to grow our productivity into the future.

### **How many new training places will there be and where will they be delivered?**

There are currently 9500 places available nationally per year in the Access Program.

In 2009-10 there will be an additional 3650 places available for young people aged 19 – 24 who are vulnerable to long term unemployment.

**Who is eligible to participate in the Access Program?**

Vulnerable job seekers aged 15 and over are eligible to take part in the Access Program. However these additional pre-vocational support places have been made available specifically for young people aged 19 – 24 years.

Eligible participants in the Access Program include (but are not limited to) people who left school early, the long term unemployed, mature-aged job seekers re-entering the labour force, people with a disability and Indigenous Australians.

**How will the improvements to and expansion of the Access Program be delivered?**

The Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations (DEEWR) will be approaching existing Access Program brokers offering an extension of existing contracts to deliver these additional places.

**How do people interested in completing the Access Program find out more information?**

Job seekers aged 19 – 24 years who are interested in participating in the Access Program should speak with their local Centrelink or employment services provider to find out if they are eligible for the program.

Further information on the Access Program can be found at <https://accesstraining.deewr.gov.au/>