MEDIA RELEASE

Joint group training funding approval welcomed by industry

Group Training Australia (GTA) today welcomed the Commonwealth Government’s approval of the latest round of group training funding, which will support thousands of apprentices and trainees around Australia to commence and complete their training.

The Chief Executive of GTA, Jim Barron said the approval for the Joint Group Training Program (JGTP) funding would be welcomed across the sector.

“I would like to commend Industry Minister, Ian Macfarlane, for his commitment to the group training sector.

“The JGTP funding plays a vital part in helping scores of group training organisations around Australia to employ apprentices and trainees and help build the skills needed in industry,” he said.

Mr Barron said the role of group training organisations (GTOs) in regional, rural and remote parts of Australia was particularly important because in these communities, the group training presence is integral to skills development, jobs and engagement with the community. To that end, the JGTP funding is critical.

“It is also vital to thousands of micro, small and medium sized enterprises who, if it were not for group training, would not be in a position to undertake training”.

In its recent Federal Budget submission, GTA called for a more secure footing for the JGTP to ensure it is delivered in a timely way to those who rely on it.

GTOs employ some 30,000 apprentices and trainees across Australia. These apprentices and trainees are, in turn, placed with host businesses for varying periods of time until they have completed their training and been awarded their qualifications.

Mr Barron said that cuts to some programs in recent years, together with a softening economic outlook made it a difficult time for young people looking for a skilled trade, as well as for employers trying to hold on to these staff.
“Many employers are doing their best to retain apprentices and trainees in the current business climate and it doesn’t take much to push them over the edge.

“We can’t afford to see any more young people pushed onto unemployment or for the investment in their training to be lost to the economy and the community,” he said.

See GTA’s 2014 Federal Budget submission.

**Group Training Australia** is the national peak body representing the network of over 150 Group Training Organisations (GTOs) employing apprentices and trainees throughout Australia.

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