



## A strategic State Government response to growing apprenticeships and traineeships

The State Training Board has released a report which looks at ways to increase the take up of apprenticeships and traineeships in Western Australia.

*Strategies to grow apprenticeships and traineeships in Western Australia* is the result of statewide consultations to help understand industry needs and guide the McGowan Government's future direction.

The identified strategies centred around the following five key themes:

- make the vocational education and training sector system easier to navigate;
- make training more affordable;
- promote opportunities in the sector;
- make training more adaptive; and
- be more customer focused.

The Department of Training and Workforce Development (DTWD) is progressing a range of initiatives which directly support these strategies and align with work already underway as part of the McGowan Government's *Plan for Jobs*.

These initiatives include:

- freezing TAFE fees at current levels until 2021, and ensuring priority qualifications receive the highest rate of State Government subsidy;
- signing the Australian Government's National Partnership on the Skilling Australians Fund (NPSAF) to help create thousands of new opportunities for apprentices and trainees;
- developing an employer incentive scheme in consultation with industry. The scheme will be easy to access and will reduce costs for small businesses to employ apprentices and trainees – to be introduced in July 2019;
- introducing a pilot enterprise training program, initially focused on the social assistance and allied health industries, which ensures training delivery is flexible and meets the needs of industry – to be introduced in July 2019; and



- establishing TAFE Jobs and Skills Centres, which provide reliable information and advice to support both individuals and employers and make the VET system easier to navigate. Jobs and Skills Centres are now open at Kalgoorlie, Joondalup, Balga, Northbridge, Thornlie, Rockingham and Peel TAFE campuses, and several more will open in regional Western Australia, including Broome and Albany in the coming months. The centres are complemented by the **Jobs and Skills WA website**, which is a comprehensive online job support and search tool for information about WA VET, careers and jobs. It's the first time information and resources about VET, careers and jobs have been brought together in one place.

DTWD has also revised its *Apprenticeship and Traineeship Policy*, which will provide a simple, clear and coherent outline of the arrangements that govern the apprenticeship system in Western Australia. DTWD will continue to work with the State Training Board, industry, TAFE colleges and the broader VET sector to inform the design of more targeted support for apprentices, employers and industry.