



The Hon Jason Clare MP
Parliamentary Secretary for Employment

David Bradbury MP
Federal Member for Lindsay

12 November 2009

Joint Media Release

Kickstart to help Western Sydney school leavers become apprentices

Parliamentary Secretary for Employment Jason Clare and Member for Lindsay David Bradbury today urged local employers to take advantage of the Rudd Government tripling the first year apprentice bonus to almost \$5,000 this summer.

Mr Clare and Mr Bradbury met with local builder David Barry in Emu Plains about the Apprentice Kickstart program.

"Businesspeople here in Western Sydney told us they needed more help from the Government to put on apprentices," Mr Clare said.

"We know that the number of people starting apprenticeships in the traditional trades has plummeted by around 20 per cent over the past year.

"That's why the Government's Apprentice Kickstart will more than triple the first year bonus paid to employers who take on traditional trades apprentices this summer.

"We are boosting the bonus employers are paid from \$1,500 to \$4,850 – a \$100 million down payment on skills for the future helping young people find a job in the traditional trades."

The Apprentice Kickstart will be available to employers who take on a traditional trades apprentice aged between 15 to 19 from 1 December 2009 until 28 February 2010 or until 21,000 bonus payments have occurred over this period.

"We want Western Sydney businesses to get their fair share of Kickstart bonuses putting more local young people into an apprenticeship," Mr Bradbury said.

"My message to local employers is if you are thinking about hiring an apprentice – take advantage of this bonus and give a young person in our local area a start in your business."

Mr Clare also announced the appointment of Narelle Wheatland as the Local Employment Co-ordinator for the Sydney West Blue Mountains priority employment region.

In addition, Mr David Puckeridge has also been appointed as the Co-ordinator for all Sydney priority employment regions.

"The stimulus is working but in places like Western Sydney we need to go the extra mile to support local jobs," Mr Clare said.

"We have appointed Narelle Wheatland as the Local Employment Co-ordinator to maximise the impact of the Government's stimulus package locally."

Narelle Wheatland has spent the past 11 years working for the GROW Employment Council, with particular responsibility for projects in the Western Sydney and Blue Mountains region. Prior to this she spent more than eight years helping the unemployed.

"I have worked closely with Narelle in the past and know that she will continue to be a great asset for our local community," Mr Bradbury said.

"I look forward to continue working with Narelle to help increase job opportunities in our region and to Keep Penrith Working," Mr Bradbury said.