

KICKSTART INITIATIVE

The *Apprentice Kickstart* package was announced by the Hon Julia Gillard MP, Minister for Education, and Senator the Hon Mark Arbib, Minister for Employment Participation, on 16 October 2009. As part of this package, funding will be provided to state and territory governments to develop and implement innovative programs and projects which provide increased opportunities for school leavers to engage with pre-apprenticeship training.

The objectives of the available funding are to:

- a) increase the level of pre-apprenticeship activity being undertaken;
- b) better prepare individuals for an Australian Apprenticeship; and
- c) improve the retention and completion rates of Australian Apprentices.

WA has secured funding to provide an additional 400 places in the School Apprenticeship Link (SAL) program at Certificate II level. The Certificate II programs will be pre-apprenticeship training in the Automotive, Building and Construction, Metals and Engineering, Electrical, Manufacturing and Food industries. There will be two intakes of students, February 2011 and July 2011. There is an opportunity for the Hospitality sector to be part of the program if there is support for the development of a SAL Kickstart Pre-apprenticeship program. Such a program would be a pathway within the Certificate II in Hospitality (Kitchen Operations).

Each SAL Kickstart pre-apprenticeship program will be of 600 hours duration and conducted over 3 semesters. Students will complete the requirements of the Certificate II and participate in a minimum of 200 hours work placement. Students may complete additional units of competency – Statements of Attainment will be issued for any additional units of competency completed.

Upon completion of a Certificate II SAL Kickstart pre-apprenticeship, students who become indentured in a related apprenticeship will receive a mandated 6 month reduction in the term of the apprenticeship. This is in accordance with existing arrangements where students who complete a Certificate II pre-apprenticeship program receive a 6 month reduction in the term of the apprenticeship.

The program will be managed by Group Training Organisations.

**Summary provided by the WA Department of Training and Workforce Development 18.08.10.*