



Senator the Hon Richard Colbeck

Assistant Minister for Agriculture and Water Resources

Liberal Senator for Tasmania

MEDIA RELEASE

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Apprentice trial to create 68 jobs in Tasmania

Liberal Senator for Tasmanian Richard Colbeck and Liberal Candidate for Braddon Gavin Pearce have welcomed the overwhelming success of the regional apprentice wage subsidy trial in Tasmania.

The Australian Apprentice Wage Subsidy trial began in January to examine the effect of wage subsidies as an incentive for rural and regional employers to engage more apprentices in areas of skill needs.

Senator Colbeck: “The Australian Apprentice Wage Subsidy trial is nearly fully subscribed and will create 68 new full-time skilled jobs in regional Tasmania this year – an excellent result which demonstrates strong interest in technical and trades training.

“The Liberals in Government have delivered on our pledge to create 1 million new jobs over the last five years, and apprenticeships will be a major driver in our commitment to deliver 1.25 million new jobs in the next five years.

“Getting a start as an apprentice can be a life-changing experience which can open doors for young people – as I found when I completed my carpentry apprenticeship.

“By delivering a strong economy and a Budget surplus, the Liberals in Government are able to provide the training and job opportunities that Tasmanians deserve.”

Mr Pearce: “This is great news for jobs on the North West Coast and providing wage support will go a long way to encouraging businesses to share their skills and know-how with the next generation.”

“Some businesses are looking to sign up an apprentice for the first time and I believe strongly that we should be incentivising them to teach the life-changing vocational skillsets they have to offer.

“I know how important an apprenticeship is for establishing a strong career – I completed my dairy apprenticeship in Tassie and have also been an instructor at the Army Apprentices School at Bonegilla.

“The Tasmanian economy is growing strongly and there are new skilled jobs being created, including plumbers, mechanics, butchers, welders and hairdressers, so now is a great time to pick up a trade that will set you up for life.

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The AAWS is based on the relevant Australian Apprentice award wage rate, payable as follows:

- 75 per cent of the first year award wage
- 50 per cent of the second year award wage, and
- 25 per cent of the third year award wage.

It is available for businesses in rural and regional communities with

- fewer than 20 employees, the AAWS applies if they employ an additional apprentice (above their normal intake)
- 20 or more employees, the AAWS is limited to those who have not previously employed an Australian Apprentice
- employed an Australian Apprentice in the three years prior to 1 January 2019.

More information is available here: <https://www.australianapprenticeships.gov.au/publications/australian-apprentice-wage-subsidy>.