



Group Training Australia

The Largest Employer Network of Apprentices and Trainees

MEDIA RELEASE

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

15 March 2011

Resource sector skills given high priority

Group Training Australia (GTA), today welcomed the Federal Government’s adoption of the key findings of the National Resources Sector Employment Taskforce (NRSET) as a way of building urgently-needed skills in the resources sector.

The Chief Executive Officer of GTA, Jim Barron said the group training network was pleased to be playing a pivotal role, working with government, industry, training providers and apprentices in addressing Australia’s long term skill needs.

GTA welcomes the announcement of an 18-month apprenticeship training program for 1,000 mature age workers, to be jointly funded by industry and government, and managed by East Coast Apprenticeships, a group training organisation based in Brisbane. This will enable workers with existing skills to fast-track a trade qualification, and work in areas of high skills demand.

The adoption of the NRSET recommendations represents an important step in building the human capital necessary to capitalize on Australia’s resources boom. The taskforce found that construction jobs on new projects could peak at 45,000 in 2012-2013, and forecast an additional 61,500 new jobs in mining operations by 2015.

“Without the trainees, apprentices and ultimately the skilled labour that is necessary, Australia stands to miss out on substantial growth, investment and employment opportunities.

“The adoption of the Taskforce recommendations will see a greater focus on workforce planning and development in the resources sector, as well as stronger ties between industry and education that will contribute to appropriate skills where they are most needed,” Mr Barron said.

Group Training Australia was delighted to serve on the NRSET Skills Reference Group and commends the leadership of the Hon Gary Gray.

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Group Training Australia is the national peak body representing the network of over 150 Group Training Organisations (GTOs) employing apprentices and trainees throughout Australia. GTA was recently awarded the Council of Small Business Organisations of Australia (COSBOA) Small Business Champion Award 2010.

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