



ACT Government  
**2004-2005 BUDGET**

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**MEDIA RELEASE**

**\$8 MILLION FOR APPRENTICESHIPS AND TRAINEESHIPS**

The Stanhope Government has committed a total of \$9.5 million over four years to guarantee quality vocational education and training for ACT workers. A total of \$8 million over four years will be invested into the Skilling ACT initiative to meet the increased demand for apprenticeship and traineeship places in the ACT. This will benefit young people wishing to enter the workforce, but also older workers looking for new career directions.

“In the last year, there has been a sharp increase in demand for work related training. In 2001-2002 there were 3260 commencements and in 2002-2003 there were 4670. This is an increase of 1410 placements or 43 per cent,” said Ms Katy Gallagher MLA, Minister for Education, Youth and Family Services

Skilling ACT will increase payment to registered training organisations as well as encourage providers to stay in the market to meet this demand. The extension will significantly enhance the capacity of the New Apprenticeship system to deliver high quality programs and enhance the ACT’s economic capacity and social well being.

“This initiative will deliver significant benefits to the Canberra community through enhanced work related training. The skills base of our workforce will contribute to better career opportunities and will provide enterprises with a more productive and responsive workforce.”

The Skilling ACT initiative is closely aligned to the vision and expectations of the social plan and the economic white paper. It will deliver an important set of outcomes to improve skill levels and support the concept of work-related lifelong learning.

“The Government is committed to ensuring that Canberra builds and maintains a community of skilled and innovative workers, ensuring we remain competitive in the global economy,” Ms Gallagher concluded.

**Statement Ends.**

