



ACT Government
2004-2005 BUDGET

MEDIA RELEASE

TRAINING PATHWAY GUARANTEED

In the 2004-2005 Budget, the Stanhope Government has committed a total of \$9.5 million over four years to guarantee the quality education and training of Canberra's youth with \$1.5 million ensuring that Canberra's school leavers are guaranteed a training safety net.

"As the Canberra Plan states, the government is committed to providing choice and opportunity for everyone to gain skills and pursue opportunities," said Ms Katy Gallagher MLA, Minister for Education, Youth and Family Services

The Training Pathway Guarantee initiative will invest \$1.5 million over four years to provide a training safety net for school leavers. School leavers not already in some form of employment, post school study or training within a year of leaving school will be guaranteed access to one year's training in a vocational course.

"While the ACT senior secondary system continues to lead Australia in the provision of vocational education for year 11 and 12 students, there is still a cohort of school leavers who find it difficult to find a place in tertiary or vocational education, or find a permanent job."

"Each year there are approximately 4,000 school leavers in the ACT. Of these, about 300 do not find employment or continue their studies. The Training Pathway Guarantee will make sure these school leavers don't slip through the gaps into long term unemployment and poverty."

"It is important for young people to continue to develop their skills at the post-school level partly because advanced skills are now a requirement for success in many jobs and also because employers are increasingly using level of education attainment as a selection filter in their recruitment procedures. We are improving the quality and range of education and training options offered to those young people who chose not to proceed to higher education."

"This funding delivers on the Government's Economic White Paper commitment to provide a Training Pathway Guarantee for young school leavers. The program links with the Government's vision of a community as a whole that is prosperous, progressive, skilled and creative."

Statement Ends.

