

AM Update

February 09'



In times of global economic downturn one constant remains the same..... **Training.**

At Apprenticeships Melbourne we advise all new and existing businesses to 'train your way out of trouble and into profit'. Even though we are witnessing large businesses reducing their workforce, this should not equate to declining skills and knowledge for workers.

We prompt business to consider the need for upskilling and pose the inherent risk of not doing so.

Our objective is to work with you in 2009 to deliver this message to as many Managing Directors, CEOs and Managers of large, medium and small businesses as possible.

As you will see in this bulletin, Governments are well aware of the challenges ahead and have committed even more resources to assist employers through Government funding to re-skill or upskill their workforce.

Australia/Victoria has a world class apprenticeship system which places business, employers, apprentices, trainees and jobseekers at the centre of the vocational and education training system.

To this end, Apprenticeships Melbourne is here to work with you. As usual my staff and I will be available to assist and advise you of any opportunities/issues that you may have.

I wish you all success in 2009.

Securing Australian Apprenticeships – New Initiative

The Deputy Prime Minister, the Hon Julia Gillard MP, last week announced a new package of assistance to help secure the jobs and training arrangements of apprentices and trainees.

The two new initiatives - **Securing Apprenticeships and Traineeships** and **Securing Apprenticeships and Traineeships through Registered Training Organisations** are all part of the Government's plan to provide a pathway for out-of-trade Australian Apprentices (AAs) to remain connected to the workforce and maintain their investment in training.

The first initiative, **Securing Apprenticeships and Traineeships** is to be delivered as part of the Australian Apprenticeships Incentives Program (AAIP).

The **Securing Apprenticeships and Traineeships** initiative provides additional financial support including:

- A \$1,800 wage subsidy (\$150 per week paid in a single payment at the twelve week point after recommencement) will be available to employers who recommence an eligible out-of-trade AA on or after 1 January 2009.
- A \$1,000 additional completion payment will be available to employers who successfully complete an eligible AA on or after 1 January 2009. An employer does not need to be eligible for the wage subsidy to receive the additional completion payment.
- Eligible AAs are those at the Certificate III/IV level in qualifications that lead to an occupation on the NSNL or AAs in selected Diplomas/Advanced Diplomas.

The financial support under this initiative will be payable for 2 years until 31 December 2010.

The second initiative announced in this package, **Securing Apprenticeships and Traineeships through Registered Training Organisations**, provides financial assistance to cover the cost of the off-the-job training component where an AA whose qualification is incomplete, has been made redundant.

Under this initiative, AAs will be able to maintain the value of their investment in training by enabling them to complete their off-the-job training component of their training arrangements with their Registered Training Organisation (RTO).

RTOs would receive funding of either \$1,250 or \$2,500 for each AA who completes their off-the-job training component of their Australian Apprenticeship.

This initiative is to commence from 1 July 2009 and is targeted at AAs at the Certificate III/IV, Diploma and Advanced Diploma levels. More information will be made available closer to the commencement date.

Also as previously advised, the Mature Aged (45+) Commencement incentive (\$750) and Completion incentive (\$750) continues to be payable to employers of mature aged Australian Apprentices who were retrenched from their previous employer.

Fact Sheets are attached for further reading or you can check the Media Release – “\$145 Million to secure jobs and apprenticeships” at

http://www.deewr.gov.au/Ministers/Gillard/Media/Releases/Pages/Article_090220_090129.aspx

Skills for Growth

The Victorian Government has committed \$52 million to *Skills for Growth: the Workforce Development Program* to address the skills and training needs of businesses and their employees.

Skills for Growth: the Workforce Development Program provides Victorian based small businesses with access to a team of independent workforce planning and training specialists free of charge to their business.

A specialist will:

- work with businesses to identify their business objectives and strategic priorities;
- assess workforce skills and training needs;
- identify the most appropriate training program for employees;
- develop a tailored training plan; and
- place staff into accredited training programs that lead to a Training Package or State-accredited course qualification.

The program aims to assist Victorian small business employees into government-subsidised accredited training places between

April 2009 and June 2012.

Skills for Growth: the Workforce Development Program is open to all Victorian-based small businesses.

To be eligible, the business must:

- employ from 1 to 200 staff;
- have been in operation for at least 12 months; and
- be financially viable.

Skills for Growth: the Workforce Development Program will start in April 2009. To learn more about the program, or to register your interest, visit: www.business.vic.gov.au/skillsforgrowth or www.skills.vic.gov.au

Introducing our new Industry Skills Advisor – Deborah Rulach



Deborah Rulach, Industry Skills Advisor has Certificate IV in Small Business, has worked in recruitment, training and employment services for eight years and brings extensive industry and employer contacts to this key role. Apprenticeships Melbourne is the only AAC employing a dedicated Industry Skills Advisor to ensure that our approach aligns with broader skill strategies driven by the Industry Skills Councils. Deborah is liaising with ISCs, employer and industry associations and major employers to identify opportunities to broker solutions to meet skills demand, particularly in skill shortage occupations, through Australian Apprenticeships.

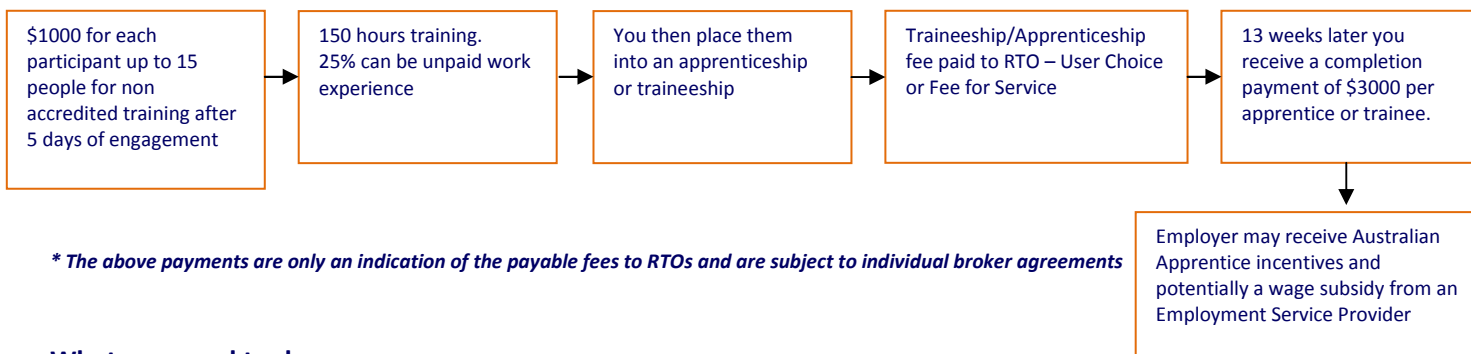
Deborah will keep you updated on industry directions and new business opportunities.

Mob: 0407 059 721 or **Email:** deborahr@appsmelb.com.au

Access Program

The Access Program can be used as a gateway to Apprenticeships/Traineeships and new business opportunities. By participating in the Access Program you can attract Government funding training dollars for non accredited training as well as the normal Apprenticeship/Traineeship funding.

How it works:



What you need to do:

Contact Deborah Rulach, who will advise you of Access brokers in your area and guide you through the process, or please call if you are interested in attending an information session to advise you on the requirements of the program.

Deborah Rulach **Mob:** 0407 059 721 or **Email:** deborahr@appsmelb.com.au

2009 Victorian Training Awards



The Victorian Training Awards is an annual event that showcases and rewards excellence in the vocational education and training (VET) sector. Attended by 1000 guests each year, this prestigious event provides a beneficial interface where industry and the VET sector celebrate outstanding achievements by individuals and organisations.

The Awards recognise the important contribution made by apprentices, trainees, students, teachers, employers, training providers and industry in building a world-class VET system in Victoria. Thirteen awards are presented each year.

2009 Key Dates

- Nominations open: 3 March 2009
- Application seminars: 30 March – 2 April 2009
- Nominations close: 15 May 2009
- Judging commences: 18 May 2009
- Finalists notified: 24 June 2009

- Judging completed: 13 July 2009
- Presentation dinner: 20 August 2009

2009 Important Information

The 2009 Nomination booklets will be available in early March 2009.

Applicants who wish to begin writing their applications may do so, as the 2009 criteria will be the same as in 2008. The 2008 criteria is located inside the student and organisation nomination booklets and can be downloaded by clicking one of the following links:

Victorian Training Awards – Student Nomination Booklet

http://www.skills.vic.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0011/11342/StudentsNominationFormVTA2008.pdf

Victorian Training Awards – Organisation Nomination Booklet

http://www.skills.vic.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0007/13030/Organisation_Nomination_Booklet2008.pdf

2009 Application writing seminars

To assist applicants in writing their applications, there will be seminars held in Melbourne, Ballarat, Shepparton and Newborough. The seminars cover the application process, past winner experiences and tips for writing winning applications.

The first application seminar was held last year and was useful and informative for all who attended. Two attendees went on to win awards at both the state and national levels.

The 2009 seminars are:

<u>Melbourne</u>	<u>Ballarat</u>	<u>Shepparton</u>	<u>Newborough</u>
5.30 pm 30 March 2009 Treasury Theatre Lower plaza, 1 Macarthur Street East Melbourne 3002	1.00 pm 31 March 2009 Ballarat University, SMB Campus Brewery Theatre Brewery Complex Lydiard Street South Ballarat 3350	12.30 pm 1 April Goulburn Ovens TAFE Harder Auditorium Shepparton Campus Fryers Street Shepparton 3630	12.00pm 2 April 2009 GippsTAFE Theatrette Yallourn campus Monash Road Newborough 3825

Upcoming Events – March/April 2009



Be Seen. Be Heard. Be There.

Australia's largest career and employment event!

The National Careers & Employment Expo brings careers, employment and training opportunities to the general public by connecting organisations with thousands of career minded individuals.

The Expo provides a friendly environment which enables employers, education and training providers to communicate directly with potential candidates

Date 27 - 28 March 2009

Time Friday: 9am – 4pm
Saturday: 10am – 4pm

Entry FREE Public Admission

Venue Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre
2 Clarendon Street
Southbank, Victoria



Safety In Action Trade Show is the number 1 safety event for your business.

As Melbourne's premier safety event, Safety In Action (SIA) will include over 350 exhibitors and attract in excess of 11,000 visitors over 3 days at the Melbourne Exhibition Centre.

Date 31 March - 2 April 2009

Time Tuesday: 10am – 5pm
Wednesday: 9am – 5pm
Thursday: 9am – 4pm

Entry FREE Public Admission

Venue Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre
2 Clarendon Street
Southbank, Victoria

The Age VCE and Careers Expo 2009

Over 150 exhibitors including:

- exhibitors with information and resources for the VCE
- exhibitors with career and study advice
- Australia's top universities, TAFE and training colleges,
- exhibitors with international exchange and GAP year programs

Over 140 seminars on VCE subjects, tertiary and courses and careers

Date 24 April - 26 April 2009

Time Friday - Sunday: 10am – 5pm

Entry Admission is \$10.00 per person, \$5.00 per person for school groups (5 or more) and \$25.00 for families (3 or more, children under 14 free). Admission covers all 3 days includes seminars, career forum presentations and a copy of The Age

Venue Caulfield Racecourse

Station Street
Caulfield, Victoria

UPDATE: Development of New Training Websites to replace the NTIS

Unfortunately the Training.gov.au proposed launch date of 29th May is unattainable. The revised launch date is now 29th September 2009. Training.gov.au will eventually replace ntis.gov.au and training.com.au, however the new website is currently still under construction. You can visit <http://blog.training.gov.au/> to view the development. Both training.com.au and ntis.gov.au will continue in the interim.

Training.gov.au is the name of the new system that the Australian, State and Territory Governments are developing to ensure people can get the information they need to make informed decisions about training. The system will:

- Meet the functionality, performance and stability requirements of users.
- Be cost-effective to develop, support, maintain and enhance.
- Support delivery of national policy objectives.

What will Training.gov.au do?

Training.gov.au will perform three key functions:

- Provide a national register of training providers and products.
- Provide an authoritative and up-to-date database of Training Package content.
- Enable different user groups to get information out in the way that they want: through three web-sites and a data download.

Victorian Bushfire Appeal

It certainly has been a bad few weeks for Victoria with bushfires ravaging the North east of the State. So many people will know someone who has been affected in some shape or form. Over the past couple of weeks Apprenticeships Melbourne's staff have donated money and contributed such items as toiletries, clothes and food. These were delivered to various local Community Centres in the northern suburbs.

Apprenticeships Melbourne would also like to take this opportunity to recognise the fantastic contribution made by one of our major clients, **Hertz Australia**, who made their hire cars available for the victims of the bushfires and loosened their identification requirements to make it easier for the families to get the cars.



Australian Red Cross
THE POWER OF HUMANITY

Donations can be made by phoning **1800 811 700** or
visiting www.redcross.org.au

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