



AUSTRALIAN CHAMBER OF
COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY

MEDIA RELEASE

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NEW SKILLS STRATEGY CRITICAL TO RECOVERY AND GROWTH

Statement by Mary Hicks, Director of Employment, Education and Training

The Australian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ACCI), Australia's largest and most representative business organisation, has welcomed today's announcement of 11,000 extra enterprise training places allowing small and medium enterprises to work with industry associations, Industry Skills Councils and training providers to upskill existing workers.

For the first time in over twelve months, many businesses are beginning to raise their head above the trench - this initiative will give many of them the confidence to hire and train more workers.

Under the new Enterprise Based Productivity Places Program (EBPPP), small businesses with up to 100 employees will have up to 90% of their training costs subsidised, with a 75% subsidy for medium sized enterprises of up to 200 staff and a 50% subsidy for larger companies.

The EBPPP means better engagement between businesses, Industry Skills Councils and training providers and ensures that the skills that are taught can be better matched to the practical needs of the workplace, which leads to gains in productivity, better economic outcomes, and better, higher paid jobs.

As Australia emerges from the global financial crisis, we must ensure that we have the right balance of skilled employees to drive the economic recovery.

For further information:

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ACCI represents over 350,000 businesses in every State and Territory and all industries. Our network employs around 4 million employees, ranging from the top 100 companies to tens of thousands of small and medium businesses.

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