

Media Release

NECA Centre of Excellence opens in Chullora

Thousands of young people are set to benefit after the National Electrical and Communications Association (NECA) Training and Apprenticeships officially opened its state-of-the-art Centre of Excellence in Chullora, with guest of honour Deputy Premier John Barilaro.

The specialist facility is already being used to train NECA Training and Apprenticeships' first year electrician apprentices, with the majority of the organisations' 550 NSW-based apprentices to commence studying there over the next two years.

Equipped with the latest electrotechnology materials and tools, the Centre of Excellence is one of the best of its kind in Australia, ensuring electrical apprentices in NSW have access to a high-quality learning environment where they can develop skills that are increasingly in demand.

NSW's infrastructure boom is just one factor that has contributed to a shortage of electricians, which the Centre will help to address.

The Centre is expected to grow to include nearly 500 apprentices and 1300 post-trade per learners each year. In total, 7000 apprentices and tradespeople will receive electrotechnology training there over the next five years.

NECA was delighted to welcome the Deputy Premier – a long-time advocate for skills and training – to tour the new facilities and meet apprentices and staff.

Deputy Premier John Barilaro said:

"This is a first-class training facility and a testament to the hard work of NECA. It is great to know that thousands of young people are going to be receiving high quality skills. This Centre will make a significant contribution towards boosting the skills capability and contributing to the NSW economy."

"What I have seen today is hugely encouraging as we look to get more young people into the trades to address the ongoing skills shortages."

Suresh Manickam, CEO of NECA, said:

"It is a proud moment for everyone at NECA to be joined by the Deputy Premier as we officially open the Centre of Excellence."

"What's important is that young people understand the excellent training they receive as part of an electrical apprenticeship, as well as the well-paid and rewarding career they can expect when they qualify."

"We encourage young people, their parents and carers, and teachers and education professionals to visit the facilities to learn about an electrical apprenticeship and the fantastic career that follows."

First year NECA Apprentice Sam Massey said:

“It’s a brilliant place to learn. Having all new and the latest equipment gives me a great opportunity to get my career underway.”

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NECA media contact

Katherine Cammuso 0410 609 443, katherine.cammuso@neca.asn.au

Notes for editors

1. *NECA is the peak industry body representing the interests of electrical and communications contractors Australia-wide.*
2. *Membership comprises over 5,300 contracting companies with over 50,000 employees.*
3. *NECA provides employment and ongoing skills development for over 4,000 apprentices nationally.*