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## Media Release

### Tasmania signs up to support apprentice training

NECA welcomes the Tasmanian Government's actions in signing up to the Skilling Australians Fund (SAF).

"The decision of the Tasmanian Government to join with the Federal Government to provide funding for apprenticeships and traineeships in Tasmania will make a significant difference to young people who are seeking a career in the electro technology industry," said Suresh Manickam, CEO National Electrical and Communications Association (NECA).

Tasmania, along with the rest of Australia, has seen a worrying decline in the number of students moving into apprenticeships. This funding will help create a pipeline of well-trained, qualified apprentices to meet current and future demand for electrical contractors," he said.

Tasmania will receive \$31.5 million to assist with Vocational Education and Training from the partnership which will be used to fund training outcomes for Tasmanian learners and employers.

"NECA has been calling on state and territory governments to actively support and promote trades pathways as we believe a trade career path is equally attractive and rewarding as a university degree," added Suresh Manickam.

**-ENDS-**

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#### **Notes for editors**

- 1. NECA is the peak industry body representing the interests of electrical and communications contractors Australia-wide.*
- 2. Membership comprises over 5,200 contracting companies with over 50,000 employees.*
- 3. NECA wholly-owns Registered Training Organisations and Group Training Organisations in NSW, VIC & WA, the EcoSmart Electricians initiative, ACRS (a national cabling registrar) and has a joint venture with NESS Super in NSW.*
- 4. NECA employs around 2,500 apprentice electricians, training a further 2,500.*