

NECA welcomes apprenticeship National Partnership Agreement

The National Electrical and Communications Association (NECA) has welcomed the news that five states and territories will participate in the Federal Government's apprentice-focused, National Partnership Agreement (NPA), as part of the Skilling Australians Fund (SAF).

The SAF is a \$1.5 Billion matched funding initiative that is designed to support the delivery of 300,000 apprentices, traineeships, pre-apprenticeships, pre-traineeships, and higher apprenticeships over the next four years.

"The signing on of NSW, ACT, South Australia, Tasmania and the NT is good news for the VET sector," says NECA CEO, Mr Suresh Manickam.

"However, we urge all states and territories to see the bigger picture – a more highly skilled workforce and an enhanced Vocational Education and Training sector."

"NECA calls upon the governments of Queensland, Victoria and Western Australia to work towards the interests of the nation's electrical contractors, and other trades, which rely upon a steady stream of skilled apprenticeships to meet the demands of our nation's growing building and construction sector," Mr Manickam said.

-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. NECA is run by electrical contractors, for electrical contractors.
3. We have 5,000 contracting companies as members – and they in turn employ over 50,000 people Australia-wide.
4. NECA employs almost 350 people across its seven chapters (Queensland, New South Wales, ACT, Victoria, Tasmania, South Australia and Western Australia).
5. The chapters provide NECA members with a range of services including: Industrial Relations, Health & Safety, Legal, Technical, Training, business-support services, product discounts and advocacy representation in Canberra with Government, Industry bodies and Training bodies.
6. NECA wholly-owns its RTOs and GTOs in NSW, VIC & WA, the EcoSmart Electricians initiative and ACRS – one of the national cabling registrars, and has a joint venture with a superannuation company in NSW (NESS Super).
7. NECA also employ around 2,000 apprentice electricians and provides training to a further 2,000.
8. For further information go to www.neca.asn.au.