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Media Release

Bush wage subsidy trial welcome

NECA welcomes the Government's announcement they are investing \$60 million in a trial wage subsidy encouraging regional and rural employers to engage apprentices across selected trades including electrical apprentices.

"This is welcome news for the electrotechnology sector and will help address the current and future shortage of quality electrical apprentices Australia is facing, particularly in rural and regional areas," said Suresh Manickam, CEO NECA.

"NECA believes that quality education, skills and training initiatives are critical for the development and long-term future of the electrical trade. This investment will support local communities and family-run businesses while opening opportunities for young people to pursue a career in the trades."

NECA has strongly argued that VET education is just as important as a university degree and continues to call on all levels of government to actively promote trades career pathways as both viable and rewarding.

"It is encouraging to see the Government making a commitment to support business needs and build a quality workforce. We look forward to the outcome of what is an encouraging trial," said Manickam.

NECA, working with its partner Registered Training Organisations and Group Training Organisations, currently provides employment and ongoing skills development for around 4,000 apprentices across Australia.

-ENDS-

NECA media contact

Lynda Proude 0458 726 355, lynda.proude@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 5,000 contracting companies with over 50,000 employees.*
3. *NECA provides employment and ongoing skills development for over 4,000 apprentices Australia-wide.*
4. *The Australian Cablers Registration Service (ACRS) is a wholly owned and operated subsidiary of NECA.*
5. *Neca has a joint venture with NESS Super in NSW.*