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Media Release

NECA welcomes extension to the Adult Australian Apprentices payment

Australia's peak industry body representing the interests of electrical and communications contractors, NECA, has welcomed the recent incentives to engage more adult apprentices, announced by Senator the Hon Michaelia Cash on Wednesday, 28 November 2018.

NECA has advocated, for a long time, for the Federal Government to support employers who employ adult apprentices by providing an associated wage subsidy.

Eligibility for the Support for Adult Australian Apprentices (SAAA) payment will be extended to employers who take on an eligible apprentice aged 21 to 24 years, previously limited to 25-years and over. The one-off payment of \$4,000, paid to eligible employers, will commence on 1 July 2019.

"This is a good outcome for our sector, and picks up on some of the recommendations to the Federal Government outlining our policy position on mature age apprentice wage subsidy," said Suresh Manickam, CEO NECA.

"NECA welcomes the extension of the SAAA in 2019, which will help address the continuing decline of mature age apprenticeship numbers, due to cost of wage impacts under the current *Electrical, Electronic and Communications Contracting Award 2010*.

"NECA will continue to advocate on behalf of our 5,200 members, for funding and policy changes to address issues and deliver sector-wide improvements."

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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 provides employment and ongoing skills development for approx. 4,800 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.