

# NECA Services - NECA Group Training

## WHY ARE APPRENTICE NUMBERS FALLING SO QUICKLY?

According to the Commonwealth Government's most recent statistics, apprenticeship commencements have continued to fall, with another 10.8% reduction in the last year on top of the fall from previous years. For those over 25, the fall has been twice as high, driven by the combination of higher adult wages and the removal of employer subsidies that were originally introduced to soften the impact.

There's a bigger picture though: around

50% of students finishing school today will go to university, based on a myth that university is the only way to secure a strong future. Fewer than 30% of jobs in Australia require a university degree, so the reality is we have a generation of youth being set up with unrealistic job expectations and a large debt. The gap between graduate numbers and jobs is a direct result of the uncapping of university places and the cost model for universities that sees each additional place become a new

funding opportunity. In NSW there are 10 qualified school teachers seeking employment for every available job. This is just one of numerous examples.

NECA members understand the value of a trade and the career opportunities it represents, but we need to get the message out there to our youth as we are being drowned out by vested interests. Here are some quick facts for those deciding between an apprenticeship and attending university:

	UNIVERSITY	ELECTRICAL APPRENTICESHIP
<b>TIME COMMITMENT</b>	Typically four years	Four years
<b>STUDENT DEBT</b>	Degrees currently incur a debt of up to \$59k	\$0. The employer pays training costs and supplies tools and PPE
<b>STUDENT EARNINGS</b>	\$0. Students have to rely on their parents or pick up long hours of part time or casual work to survive	The average NECA Group Training apprentice earns \$150k over the four years
<b>EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY ON GRADUATING</b>	For many professions, very low. Ongoing oversupply of graduates means it is a growing problem	Exceptionally high. 99% of NECA Group Training apprentice graduates are employed immediately by their host or another NECA member
<b>GRADUATING SALARY</b>	Accounting: \$50k Law: \$53k Education: \$59k	Award: \$56k Construction: \$80k - \$91k
<b>HOURS</b>	Typically long with limited compensation for overtime	36 or 38 hour week with RDOs. Penalty rates and additional allowances are paid on top
<b>CAREER SECURITY</b>	Variable, but many professions such as accounting are in decline due to new technology and globalisation	Strong. Electricity supply and contracting cannot be moved offshore!

NECA Group Training (GT) is well into recruitment for the next large intake of apprentices. We are seeking good candidates in NSW, QLD and the ACT. Help us spread the word with your family and friends.

### How do we recruit?

Potential applicants can find out more about an electrical apprenticeship by visiting our website: [www.necagt.com.au](http://www.necagt.com.au), or by calling us on the numbers below. The first step is a pre-selection test which ensures applicants have the minimum literacy and numeracy skills to get through

the compulsory theory studies. From there, we are more interested in an applicant's other skills such as ability to work as part of a team in a variety of work environments and their interest in a hands-on role. We assess this at interview and successful applicants are sent for a medical.

### Other advice for NECA members

As the largest employer of apprentices in our industry, NECA Group Training is very experienced in all aspects of training apprentices from recruitment through to completion. We are happy to assist NECA members with advice on

apprenticeships, whether or not you are a NECA Group Training host.

For more advice or to enquire about becoming a host, call your local NECA GT office via the details below, or email us at [contact@necagt.com.au](mailto:contact@necagt.com.au).

NECA GT is recruiting apprentices for our next major intake – see the ad on the opposite page.

**Tom Emeleus**  
**NECA Group Training**  
**General Manager**

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**SYDNEY**  
**(02) 9744 2754**

**BRISBANE**  
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**CANBERRA**  
**(02) 6280 5580**

**TASMANIA**  
**(03) 9381 1922**