MEDIA RELEASE

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16,000 EXTRA TRAINING PLACES IN 2015

The NSW Government will provide training for at least 16,000 more students in 2015, Minister for Education Adrian Piccoli announced today.

“This additional funding of $57 million is part of the annual end-of-year rollover by the Department of Education and Communities of contestable funding for vocational education and training (VET) courses,” Mr Piccoli said.

“The NSW Government is using this additional funding to expand training options next year which is great news for people who want to train to find a job or to gain new skills as they seek to improve their employment opportunities.

“The funding will be distributed through Smart and Skilled in 2015. Smart and Skilled will now enable over 60,000 more people to train next year with NSW Government subsidised support.

“Registered training organisations, including TAFE NSW institutes, will also be keen to extend this important opportunity to many people across the State.

“Funding will be targeted to employment areas where demand is expected to be strongest.”

Based on advice from the independent NSW Skills Board, initiatives to benefit from the additional funding will include:

- increasing funding for priority qualifications including early childhood education and care, health care, agriculture and Auslan;
- targeting regional priorities that support local economic development;
- increasing funding for providers that currently have low allocations so that every Smart and Skilled provider will receive around 12 training places in a region; and
- increasing provision of pre-vocational and pre-apprenticeship training and other part qualifications of importance to local areas across the State — which will enable providers and employers to better target training at areas of need.

“Greater flexibility is also being given to providers to support School Based Apprenticeships and Traineeships which will make it easier for schools to find a place for students with their local TAFE or private provider,” Mr Piccoli said.

For more information visit www.smartandskilled.nsw.gov.au/about/latest-news

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