Skills for All to target industry needs

Training courses will receive different levels of government subsidy depending on industry demand and projected job openings under changes to the Skills for All initiative.

Skills Minister Grace Portolesi said this change would ensure that the training system is responsive while providing better surety to industry, students and training providers.

“Under these changes higher subsidy support will be offered in areas of training that address skill shortages and lead to employment,” she said.

“It will also support pathways for young people at school who want to work towards a trade or a similar vocational career pathway.”

The factors that will be important in determining the level of training subsidy support available include:

- Whether there are likely to be skills shortages in particular industries or occupations without government support;
- Ensuring the availability of training for disadvantaged groups for whom training provides a pathway to employment and economic independence;
- Supporting training approaches that are known to produce employment outcomes, such as apprenticeships and traineeships; and
- Supporting training pathways for those transitioning from school to further education and employment.

Courses that rank more highly against these criteria will receive a greater level of subsidy.

These changes are based on feedback received from industry.

“The Training and Skills Commission recently released their annual report and made some recommendations to improve the quality and targeting of our investment in skills and training,” Ms Portolesi said.

“I have also spoken to training providers and industry groups who told me they want to see caps abolished and replaced with a more sustainable model of controlling the uptake of our subsidised training.

“Thereir feedback has informed these changes.”

There will be around 1000 courses offered across 5 bands with differing subsidies.
These bands are in addition to those on the priority skills list that will receive 100% government subsidy.

“People will still be able to access an unlimited number of courses on the priority skills list, and these attract the highest level of government subsidy,” Ms Portolesi said.

“We want to ensure people have access to training in areas where we know there are skills shortages.”

The first two years of Skills for All has been very successful.

“In 2001, the proportion of South Australians aged 15-64 with a post-school qualification was under 50%, “ Ms Portolesi said.

“Our significant investment in skills and training means we have funded more than one million training places, lifting the number of people with a post-school qualification above 60%.

“This next phase of Skills for All builds upon that success and better targets training with links to employment and economic development.

“It means our training model is sustainable, efficient and targeted making it a smart investment of tax payers’ money in training our workforce for jobs.”