

STATE TRAINING BOARD — APPRENTICESHIPS AND TRAINEESHIPS

Statement by Minister for Education and Training

HON SUE ELLERY (South Metropolitan — Minister for Education and Training) [1.01 pm]: I would like to inform the house about extensive industry consultations being undertaken by the State Training Board over the coming months to increase the take-up of apprenticeships and traineeships in Western Australia. The consultation, in metropolitan and regional WA, is part of the McGowan government's election commitment to create jobs and revitalise the State Training Board. Industry, small to large employers, unions, apprentices and trainees will be consulted. This will provide the board and the state government with industry insight to help make strategic decisions about WA's future training needs. The McGowan government has a strong focus on job creation and places priority on the employment of apprentices and trainees on all major infrastructure and manufacturing projects. Non-trade and para-professional jobs including jobs in health care, community services, tourism, hospitality, education, agriculture, science and technology are equally important to the economic development of the state and require highly skilled workers. Through the consultations, the board aims to identify the common barriers faced by employers and apprentices. This will inform the design and provision of more targeted support through TAFE and the broader vocational education and training sector. It is hoped that this will enhance the take-up and successful completion of apprenticeships and traineeships in Western Australia.

The State Training Board has released the "State Training Plan 2017–2020", which identifies the current and future training and skill development needs of Western Australia's workforce. The plan supports and encourages a strong connection between the world of vocational learning and the world of work. Collaboration and partnerships between industry and the VET sector are vitally important to ensure that students, apprentices and trainees have the skills they need for the workforce. The State Training Board is committed to encouraging and boosting participation in training across Perth and regional WA, especially for people under-represented, disengaged or marginalised from the labour market, including Aboriginal people, people with disabilities, people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds and the long-term unemployed.