



MEDIA RELEASE

More incentives to launch your own business in New England

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Deputy Prime Minister, Minister for Agriculture and Water Resources and Member for New England, Barnaby Joyce said now is the time to take charge of your career and consider becoming your own boss, with greater Australian Government support to encourage self-employment and entrepreneurship.

“The expansion of the Government’s highly successful New Enterprise Incentive Scheme (NEIS) and a number of other measures introduced late last year are helping people wanting to turn their business idea into reality,” Mr Joyce said.

“Young people especially have so many new and exciting entrepreneurial ideas but only a small number of them choose to pursue this path.”

Recent changes to the eligibility criteria and the opening of new places in NEIS will provide even greater opportunity for young entrepreneurs.

Mr Joyce said he had spoken to many businesses in the region and it is clear that initiatives like the NEIS provide more opportunities for self-starters. The scheme not only contributes to the establishment of more businesses, but in turn will benefit the wider community and economy.

NEIS provider, NORTEC Staffing Solutions, said that the NEIS program is an effective way to jump start small businesses.

Senator the Hon Michaelia Cash, Minister for Employment, said the expansion of NEIS will help to create more opportunities for young people to be trained and mentored on starting their own business.

“The eligibility criteria for NEIS has also been broadened to allow people who are not in employment, education or training - including those who are not on income support - to access assistance,” Senator Cash said.

An additional 2,300 NEIS places per year bring the total number of places available annually to 8,600.

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Hon **Barnaby Joyce** MP

FEDERAL MEMBER FOR NEW ENGLAND

This expansion is accompanied by extra support for entrepreneurs, including:

- SelfStart online (www.jobactive.gov.au/selfstart) - a starting point for young people wanting to explore and develop their ideas into a successful business. SelfStart connects young people to services and programs, as well as provides information assisting them to start a business.
- 'Exploring being my own boss' workshops - workshops to engage potential entrepreneurs and provide them with a taste of what is involved in self-employment. Workshops are delivered nationally by NEIS providers with 1,000 places available each year.
- Entrepreneurship Facilitators - these facilitators are located in three regions where there is high youth unemployment and low rates of youth self-employment - Cairns, the Hunter (including Newcastle) and Launceston–North-East Tasmania. Facilitators promote entrepreneurship and self-employment, supporting potential entrepreneurs to establish their own businesses, including connecting them to existing services and programs.

For more information about the New Enterprise Incentive Scheme, please visit:
www.employment.gov.au/youth

(ENDS)

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