



## MEDIA RELEASE

# Local apprentices, businesses join wage subsidy trial

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An Australian Government trial offering regional and rural businesses new incentives to put on more apprentices is underway in New England, with 29 businesses eligible to access the subsidy locally.

The \$60 million Australian Apprenticeships Wage Subsidy commenced on 1 January 2019, offering employers subsidies worth 75 per cent of the apprentice's award wage in the first year, 50 per cent in the second and 25 per cent in the third year.

Member for New England, Barnaby Joyce, said the trial would help local businesses remain competitive while supporting more people into apprenticeships.

"Helping people start an apprenticeship, by supporting the business which employ them in Scone, in Inverell or Armidale and other regional areas like our own, will have benefits for the entire community," Mr Joyce said

"Starting out in an apprenticeship is the first step towards a rewarding career, and for businesses employing an apprentice, it's an investment in growing the skills base in the New England.

"Through this trial we anticipate the benefits will flow throughout our community, our new apprentices have a job and a career path, and businesses are helping to grow the number of local skilled workers,"

Minister for Small and Family Business, Skills and Vocational Education, Senator Michaelia Cash said having local businesses and apprentices involved in the trial is great for the community.

"There are 3.3 million Australian small businesses which contribute around \$395 billion annually to our economy. Small business plays a vital role in our community, from giving young Australians their first real job to supporting our local charities and sporting organisations," Minister Cash said.

"Through this incentive we are securing the skills our regional and rural businesses need to remain competitive and give local students new opportunities at home.

"Labor has opposed this trial and fail to see the benefits that will flow through to the community, our new apprentices, and the businesses that are helping to grow the number of local skilled workers."

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Hon **Barnaby Joyce** MP

FEDERAL MEMBER FOR NEW ENGLAND

More information about the Australian Apprenticeship Wage Subsidy trial is available online [here](#).

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