

BOOSTING APPRENTICESHIPS

A NSW Liberal/Nationals Coalition Initiative

The NSW Liberal/Nationals Coalition will exempt employers from paying the cost of WorkCover premiums for apprentices.

This will help boost jobs, address the skills shortage and encourage the development of skilled workers.

We will also overhaul WorkCover – reforming the internal structure of the WorkCover scheme, reforming the inspectorate, reducing administrative waste and adding more checks and balances to reduce fraud and corrupt activity.

Employers will be exempt from paying the cost of WorkCover premiums for apprentices over a four year period to be phased in commencing in the 2008-2009 Budget. In the first two years (2008-2009 and 2009-2010) premiums will be halved, with the full exemption being delivered in the 2010-2011 Budget. Apprentices will remain covered by WorkCover. The exemption will apply to all apprentices.

The cost of WorkCover premiums paid by employers for apprentices is up to \$30 million per year. Removing this cost would boost youth employment and ease the long-term skills shortages affecting a range of sectors including the building and construction industry.

Apprentices will remain covered by WorkCover, as they are now, but the exemption will bring NSW in line with Victoria where employers do not pay these premiums for apprentices.

The Community View

“The biggest deterrent to employing an apprentice is the payment of workers compensation premiums. This exemption will bring NSW into line with Victoria and would provide a significant incentive to the employment of apprentices, stimulating skills development and retention in NSW”.

Wayne Gersbach, Housing Industry Association, 9 June 2006

“We know this initiative will have a positive impact on business costs and in encouraging businesses to take on apprenticeships. When an employer invests in skills by taking on an apprenticeship, ultimately the whole community benefits through increased supply of skilled labour”.

Mark Bethwaite, Australian Business Limited, 7 June 2006.

Costing

2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11
\$ million	\$ million	\$ million	\$ million
-	15	15	30

ONLY THE NSW LIBERAL/NATIONALS HAVE
AN ECONOMIC RESCUE PLAN FOR NSW