

EMBARGOED: 6.30 p.m.



**PRIME MINISTER**

FOR PRESS

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ELECTORAL TALK

A number of significant decisions that effect the training and employment of thousands of Australians were made by the Federal Government this week.

These decisions are in line with the Government's commitment to expand employment incentives for manufacturers and businessmen. They also illustrate the Government's real concern about unemployment - particularly among the young.

First, employers are now offered a \$58 a week subsidy to train last year's unemployed school leavers.

This 'on the job' training subsidy - for private employers and public authorities - is considerably greater than the normal subsidy payable for young people under the national employment and training scheme.

Young people will qualify for training if they are between 15 and 19 years old, have left school in the preceeding year and have registered with the Commonwealth Employment Service for six months.

A special feature of the programme is that it provides for a training plan to be devised for each person. This will be tailored to overcome their particular employment problems and will guide their training on the job.

The Government shortly will announce details of how and when young people can apply. Further information will also be available from Commonwealth Employment Service offices.

This measure is an important initiative that reflects our genuine concern for the short and long term effects of unemployment - particularly for young people.

This week the Government also announced a number of improvements in the national employment and training scheme.

Broadly, the scheme has been reformed in three main areas: allowances for in-plant training and living away from home have been substantially increased; trainees, carrying out formal courses on a full time basis will in future be able to increase their earnings without affecting their allowances. And finally, greater opportunities will be available for part time training. This initiative will be of considerable assistance to married women who are unable to take on full time training because of family responsibilities.