



PRIME MINISTER

FOR MEDIA

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YOUTH EMPLOYMENT INITIATIVES IN NEW SOUTH WALES

The Commonwealth Government has approved the employment of a further 2,000 young people in New South Wales State Government Departments and Instrumentalities, and local government councils under the Special Youth Employment Training Programme (SYETP).

This decision follows a request from the New South Wales Premier that the Commonwealth continue the co-operative training arrangement between the two governments which was begun in 1978. Under this arrangement the Commonwealth Government provides training assistance for young people under the SYETP scheme, and the New South Wales Government, and local government councils provide additional temporary positions for the young people.

There have been three previous intakes of SYETP trainees, and when combined with the 2,000 young people to be assisted in the current financial year, a total of 4,500 young people will have been trained under this arrangement. The total cost of this programme in the current financial year will be \$2.85 million.

The decision is indicative of the Commonwealth Government's concern for the unemployment problem and is designed to assist the training of young unemployed people so that they will gain skills necessary for them to become integrated into the work force. In so doing it will significantly assist the long term employment prospects of a large number of young people in New South Wales.