



PRIME MINISTER

Joint Statement by the Prime Minister the Hon P J Keating MP
and the Minister for Employment, Education and Training, the
Hon K C Beazley MP

**A National Employment and Training Plan for
YOUNG AUSTRALIANS**

The Federal Government has laid the foundations for a strong revival in job opportunities for young people with a comprehensive package of new training and employment measures.

The Prime Minister, Mr Keating, and the Minister for Employment, Education and Training, Mr Beazley, today finalised the details of a new national employment and training plan for all young Australians.

It builds on the historic decision last week in co-operation with the States and Territories to establish the Australian National Training Authority and on the broad industry and community support demonstrated so effectively at the successful National Meeting on Youth Employment and Training.

Mr Keating and Mr Beazley detailed the plan which will see government expenditure of \$297.2 million in 1992-93 and \$767.2 million over three years and will help almost 100,000 young people during the course of 1993.

The plan is driven by the Government's desire to lift the burden of unemployment from the shoulders of Australia's youth and to eliminate it as much as possible from the national economy.

To that end the Government will provide every long term unemployed teenager with the opportunity to find a place in the job market. Support for other young people will also be expanded. And in addition to programs outlined in One Nation, in the Budget the Government will address additional specific measures for all unemployed.

The key features of the package are:

.An offer to all long-term unemployed young people of a six month vocational training course, with a JOBSTART funded place on completion, giving employers a wage subsidy to employ a young person, with funding provided for 35,000 places;

.A milestone change for flexibility in pay and training arrangements for young people with the creation of a new Career Start Traineeship, designed by the government and the ACTU and set up under a single Federal award - to target early school leavers, amongst the most disadvantaged of job seekers;

- . An expansion of SkillShare and JOBTRAIN and their link to a wage subsidy for a job beyond training;
- . A new Landcare and Environment Action Program offering young people employment experience in environmental and conservation projects;
- . Increased subsidies to additional traineeships and support for apprentices;
- . A further 12,000 pre-vocational TAFE courses in 1993;
- . \$43.6 million over three years to underpin the development of the new-entry level training arrangements for the Australian Vocational Certificate recommended in the Carmichael Report;
- . \$48.6 million over three years to fund places in Carmichael pilots and the new Career Start Traineeships.

The measures in the package, combined with the existing labour market programs and the opportunities now available in universities and vocational education, provide a positive option of employment, education or training for young Australians.

Details of the package are set out in the attachments.

Mr Keating said the plan was the most comprehensive ever assembled by any government and confronted the fundamental concerns facing Australia's young people.

Firstly, it provided young unemployed with jobs NOW and also increased significantly opportunities for immediate training.

Secondly, looking to the future, it provided the infrastructure by which young people will acquire the skills, competence and confidence they will need to succeed in tomorrow's workplace.

He said one of the keys to a sustained revival of job opportunities for young people was in the implementation of the new Australian Vocational Certificate (AVC) and its application to employers across the country.

"The move to the new system will be undertaken through a series of pilots. All pilot schemes of sufficient quality put to the government will be funded. We are already impressed by the willing response of so many of Australia's leading employers and trade unions to this offer," he said.

Mr Keating said the Government, in cooperation with the ACTU and employers, will develop a new Career Start Traineeship (CST).

"This new form of traineeship will enhance the flexibility of the existing Australian Traineeship System and provide a bridge in implementing the Carmichael Report. A new national award will be established to assist in providing quick access to the new and more flexible arrangements," he said.

Mr Beazley said the CST, the pilot programs and the development of the AVC training system will transform the approaches to vocational training in Australia.

"Together, the measures will better prepare our young people for the rapidly changing world of the workplace and are essential to create the more highly skilled workforce we require to increase our living standards," he said.

The employment and training plan for young Australians also includes a range of immediate measures to assist unemployed young people into jobs and training courses designed to lead to jobs.

The Prime Minister said that all teenagers who are unemployed for a year or more would be offered an accredited training course in either a TAFE or similar training institution. Upon completion of the course, young people will be able to use a JOBSTART card to find employment. The JOBSTART card will inform employers of the subsidy they can receive if they employ that young person.

This subsidy presently ranges from \$70 a week up to \$230 a week depending on age and duration of unemployment.

"This offer will provide the key to a job that many young unemployed are looking for," Mr Keating said.

"In contrast John Hewson offers only a wage cut for all young people," he said.

Today Mr Keating also announced the establishment of a new Landcare and Environment Action Program to provide young people with vocational training while working in land care, conservation, environment protection and cultural heritage activities. Such a program received strong endorsement at the Youth Meeting. In 1993, this program is expected to involve at least 6,000 young Australians.

The Plan also includes the expansion of existing programs such as JOBTRAIN, SkillShare and JOBSTART to provide for wider access for young people to integrated packages of training and wage subsidy. These programs will assist an extra 15,800 young people in 1993.

Mr Beazley said existing measures that have been successful in halting the dramatic decline in apprenticeship and traineeship numbers will now continue to be available to employers until the end of June 1993. New measures, including extra incentives to employers hiring additional trainees and a package of measures to allow group training schemes to take on additional apprentices and trainees will also assist young people into jobs and avoid the possibility of skill shortages developing as the economy recovers.

The Government will also provide an additional 1,650 traineeship opportunities for young people through expanded intakes into the Departments of Social Security and Employment, Education and Training, as well as ensuring that the target of trainees constituting at least 25 per cent of all base grade recruitment is achieved in other Commonwealth agencies.

Together these range of apprenticeship and traineeship measures will assist some 24,700 young people in 1993.

Finally, the package includes a range of measures designed to assist particularly disadvantaged young people who are at risk of either failing to complete school education, or simply being unable to take advantage of the opportunities made available by the Government.

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