



PRIME MINISTER

32/95

STATEMENT BY THE PRIME MINISTER, THE HON P J KEATING MP

CAIRNS JOBSKILLS PROJECT

I am pleased to announce a \$1.5 million project to train 135 unemployed North Queenslanders to meet skills shortages in the region's building industry.

The plan is the first Jobskills project in Australia to train unemployed people for the private sector construction industry.

The continuing commercial construction boom in the region has resulted in a shortage of skilled workers in the domestic sector. This project, funded by the Federal Department of Employment, Education and Training's (DEET) Jobskills program, will give job seekers the skills and experience needed to be employed in the domestic construction industry.

The Government's employment White Paper, *Working Nation*, has increased opportunities for training unemployed people to take up jobs in industries experiencing labour shortages.

Trainees in the new North Queensland project will have six weeks training at TAFE followed by 20 weeks on-the-job work experience and training with local employers. This combination of on-the-job and formal training has proved highly successful in helping unemployed people back into the workforce.

The Jobskills project was made possible through the cooperation of the Queensland Master Builders' Association, the Australian Workers' Union and the Federated Ironworkers' Association, with support from TAFE, Construction Training QLD and DEET.

A full-time manager will be appointed to the project, supported by a Management Advisory Committee comprised of representatives from the Queensland Master Builders' Association, the AWU, TAFE, Construction Training Qld (CTQ) and DEET.

CAIRNS
18 April, 1995

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