



**Amanda Rishworth MP**  
*Federal Member for Kingston*  
**MEDIA RELEASE**

**KICKSTART TO HELP SCHOOL LEAVERS BECOME APPRENTICES**

School leavers seeking to become apprentices in the traditional trades are set to benefit from the Rudd Government tripling the first year apprentice bonus to almost \$5,000 over this coming summer, Member for Kingston, Amanda Rishworth said today.

Ms Rishworth said that the bonus would be a \$100 million “down payment” on skills for the future and would help young people find a job in the traditional trades.

“By accessing the Apprentice Kickstart, eligible employers will receive \$4,850 – the existing \$1500 commencement bonus plus \$850 and another \$2500 at nine months,” Ms Rishworth said

“This will help school leavers in the South enter apprenticeships for bricklayers, carpenters, electricians, hairdressers, cooks and welders – any trade on the national skills shortage list.

“We know that commencements in the traditional trades have plummeted by around 20 per cent over the last year.

“I want our community to get its fair share of this Kickstart program to boost the number of local young people entering traditional trade apprenticeships.”

Ms Rishworth said that Apprentice Kickstart would be available to employers who take on a traditional trades apprentice aged 15 to 19 from 1 December 2009 until 21,000 commencements have been reached over summer.

“My message to local employers is if you are thinking about hiring an apprentice – take advantage of this bonus and give a school leaver a start in your business,” Ms Rishworth said.

“As part of the \$100 million, the Government is providing \$20 million to create up to 5,000 pre-apprenticeship places that give young people a head start in entering a trade,” Ms Rishworth said.

Ms Rishworth said that the Rudd Government had also announced that Round Two of the Jobs Fund would begin shortly, with the guidelines to be released soon.

“There is \$51.9 million on offer for the Local Jobs stream, for projects that support green jobs in conservation, heritage, energy efficiency and other environmental work,” Ms Rishworth said.

“There is also \$41.4 million for the Get Communities Working stream that will help grow sustainable social businesses.

“There have been some changes in the guidelines, so groups who have already submitted applications in anticipation of round two will be contacted to ensure their proposal matches the new guidelines to be released at the end of the month,” Ms Rishworth said.