



Leadership for the West

20 February 2009

### **Trainees & Apprentices Protected**

LeadWest CEO Anton Mayer welcomed the Federal Government announcement to spend \$155 million on wage subsidies and training to assist apprentices and trainees laid off in the economic slowdown to re-enter the workforce and complete their qualifications.

“This announcement illustrates that the Government is working to secure the nation’s future, particularly in a time of economic slow-down by channelling investment into training and apprenticeships,” Mr Mayer said.

The announcement comes off the back of research that suggests an additional 300,000 Australians expected to join the dole queue by June 2009.

“LeadWest has identified ‘education and skills’ as a priority agenda item for 2009 and will be running, in partnership with Victoria University, an Education and Skills Forum later in the year”.

“A quality education and well-developed skills are a passport to a better future for young people of the West, it is also an imperative for a strong western region economy. LeadWest will continue to advocate for a better understanding of the barriers to educational attainment, and for this to be taken into consideration by Government in distributing funding and resources to assist apprentices and trainees laid off as a result of the economic slowdown,” Mr Mayer said.

LeadWest is a peak advocacy body that was formed to provide leadership to the West in addressing its challenges and capitalising on its advantages, to be a representative voice for the West, especially to State and Federal Government. LeadWest’s goal is to help the West realise its great potential as a dynamic and enjoyable place in which to live, work and visit.

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