

# Media Release

---

## Peak Business & Training Organisations Welcome Apprentice Support

---

For Immediate Release

— 12 March 2020

The support to help businesses retain apprentices and trainees have been welcomed by the nation's preeminent organisations supporting the small business and training sectors, the Council of Small Business Organisations Australia (COSBOA) and the Independent Tertiary Education Council Australia (ITECA).

“Securing the jobs of apprentices and trainees within small business is a welcome initiative that will ensure that, over the longer term, we have the skills available to allows these businesses to grow and create more jobs,” said Mr Peter Strong, COSBOA Chief Executive Officer.

Businesses will receive up to \$21,000 to help keep more than 117,000 apprentices and trainees employed. The peak body representing independent vocational education and training providers, ITECA said this sends a strong signal to employers about the need to continue to support those in training.

“Keeping apprentices and trainees in their vocational training programs is a great outcome for all. It keeps the apprentices and trainees employed, it backs small businesses and also the independent providers that support more than 70% of those in vocational education and training,” said Mr Troy Williams, ITECA Chief Executive.

Both COSBOA and ITECA were strong advocates for a vocational training component in the Australian Government's stimulus package; however, both organisations believe there's more to be done.

“We need to look at further assistance for small businesses to help them retain their existing workforce. It's an opportune time to invest in employee skills, particularly through Australian Government funding to facilitate the delivery of short courses,” Mr Strong said.

According to ITECA, the independent vocational education and training sector is equipped to provide new skills for the Australian small business workforce.

“Independent vocational education and training providers are able to provide accredited training in areas ranging from administration, finance, retail, tourism and hospitality. It's the kind of support that will help employees at small businesses, particularly across regional Australia,” Mr Williams said.

Ends.

---

### — Media Contacts

Peter Strong, COSBOA 0433 644 097  
Troy Williams, ITECA 0400 599 094