

STATE BUDGET

2018-19

MINISTER FOR INDUSTRY AND SKILLS DAVID PISONI MP MEDIA RELEASE

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State Budget delivers funding for more than 20,000 new apprenticeships and traineeships

The Marshall Liberal Government is partnering with the Federal Government to deliver \$202.6 million of skills funding to create 20,800 new apprenticeships and traineeships over the next four years.

The 2018-19 State Budget invests \$100 million over the next four years, with \$102.6 million secured from the Federal Government through the *Skilling South Australia initiative* to ensure South Australians have the skills and are job-ready for key growth industries such as defence.

“The Marshall Government is delivering on our election commitment of \$200 million to fund an additional 20,800 work-based apprenticeships and traineeships over the next four years,” said Minister for Industry and Skills David Pisoni.

“This National Partnership Agreement means a massive increase in funding for apprenticeships and traineeships, which will provide more opportunities for young South Australians and those looking to expand their skills to commence long-term careers in SA’s defence sector.

“We are committed to assisting more local businesses with this significant skills investment, so that they have the ability and confidence to take on apprentices and trainees to add value to their operations and the SA economy.

“Under the previous government there was a steady decline in the number of apprenticeships and traineeships in South Australia – but we are committed to turning that around and backing it up with this skills funding boost in the State Budget.”

The State Government’s focus on skills training is also reflected in a program designed to change attitudes towards skilled careers.

The State Government is also delivering on its election commitment for a new technical college with a focus on encouraging students to prepare for jobs in the defence sector.

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“The State Budget provides \$1 million in operating expenditure and \$5 million of investing expenditure to establish at least one new technical college in Adelaide’s western suburbs, because we must encourage our young people to prepare for defence jobs on the horizon,” said Minister Pisoni.

Both these initiatives, to change attitudes to skilled careers and a new technical college, will be funded from within existing departmental resources.

In order to meet the \$715 million savings task by 2021-22 left by the former Labor government and to deliver the new State Government’s priorities, the 2018-19 State Budget includes the following savings measures in the Industry and Skills portfolio:

- \$1.7 million saving in 2018-19 from discontinuing the automotive supplier diversification program. This program was put in place to assist automotive supply chain manufacturers to diversify in the period leading up to the closure of GM Holden’s operations at Elizabeth in October 2017.
- Savings of \$1.3 million per year from discontinuing the career services program. The new *Skilling South Australia* initiative will re-focus activity in this area to enable targeted projects and support for apprenticeships and traineeships.
- A new model for entrepreneurship in South Australia will see the cessation of the South Australian Early Commercialisation Fund and the closure of TechInSA – the cessation of these two programs will deliver a benefit to the budget of \$6.4 million per year from 2021-22.
- The Department for Industry and Skills will also deliver savings of \$15.4 million over four years from an organisational redesign and the achievement of operating efficiencies across the department.