1. The Government committed to “provide up to $86 million for 10,000 additional apprenticeships over six years to meet the looming skills shortage from 2012-13”. This commitment was announced as part of the pledge to revamp Queensland’s skills and training, and significantly boost apprenticeship opportunities for Queenslanders.
2. The funding commitment for this strategy is $8 million to be made available in 2014–15, $16.4 million in 2015-16 and up to $61.6 million to be committed over the remaining two years.
3. The Department of Education, Training and Employment has refocused and realigned a number of key activities and actions to provide the necessary focus within its core business and current programs to create an environment to support additional apprenticeship opportunities in Queensland. The department has also implemented two initiatives as part of *Great skills. Real opportunities.* that form a three-year, $13 million strategic intervention:

* School to Trade Pathway Incentive – a $10 million incentive program, providing employers with up to $5,000 to commence a school-based apprentice and retain the apprentice in a full apprenticeship on completion of schooling; and
* Group Training Additional Apprentice Bonus – up to $3 million to create additional apprenticeship opportunities through group training organisations.

1. To achieve 10,000 additional apprenticeships over six years using the baseline derived from the National Partnership Agreement on Skills Reform, a total of 109,258 apprenticeship commencements will be required.
2. Apprenticeship commencements are demand driven, as a result of their direct link to employment, and are therefore aligned to the economic cycle. As such, the attainment of the target is dependent upon fostering the conditions for businesses across Queensland industry sectors to offer additional employment opportunities to Queenslanders.
3. Cabinet endorsed the National Partnership Agreement on Skills Reform benchmark of 16,543 apprenticeship commencements as the baseline to measure progress against the commitment of 10,000 additional apprenticeships over six years from 2012-13 to 2017-18.
4. *Attachments*

Nil.