



## Media Statement

# State Budget's \$14.3 million boost to build construction careers

Friday, 13 May 2022

- \$14.3 million invested in 2022-23 State Budget to support development of a safe, skilled and sustainable building and construction workforce
- \$4.5 million for apprentice tool and safety equipment with \$500 rebate to start July 1
- \$5.1 million for wage-gap program to boost civil construction skills
- \$1.3 million support for driver's licence training
- \$1.6 million to support construction workforce in disaster-affected areas

The McGowan Labor Government today announced a \$14.3 million investment in the 2022-23 State Budget to support the development of Western Australia's construction industry workforce and provide financial support to apprentices and trainees.

The \$14.3 million Construction Training Fund (CTF) investment includes \$4.5 million for a new tool rebate to support apprentices and trainees purchase trade-related tools and safety equipment.

Eligible apprentices will be able to claim up to \$500 each from the CTF for purchases made between July 1, 2022 and June 30, 2023.

To support the introduction of a new apprenticeship pathway for the civil construction sector, the CTF is providing eligible employers with a wage gap subsidy to cover the difference in wages paid between the new apprenticeship and outgoing traineeship. The \$5.1 million program will run over the next four years.

The State Government's Skills Summits in 2021 identified access to a driver's license as a common barrier to employment as an apprentice. The CTF includes a \$1.3 million initiative to assist young people with gaining the experience and skills they need to obtain a driver's license for entry into a construction trade apprenticeship.

The CTF also includes an additional \$1.6 million of incentives for employers and apprentices involved in rebuilding disaster-affected regions to support communities impacted by the Wooroloo bushfires and Cyclone Seroja.

Under the scheme, employers can claim up to an additional \$6,000 from the CTF over two years and apprentices can receive up to \$2,000 over the same period.



A further \$1.9 million has been allocated to identify and promote training in trades with a declining number of workers through online resourcing for target employers, advertising and apprentice mentoring programs.

For more information on these initiatives, visit <https://ctf.wa.gov.au>

#### **Comments attributed to Premier Mark McGowan:**

"My Government is committed to investing in training Western Australians to build a skilled workforce for now and for the future.

"These important initiatives, delivered through the Construction Training Fund, will support the Western Australian construction industry to attract and retain workers.

"The tool rebate will provide financial support to thousands of construction apprentices in regional and metropolitan areas, helping them to follow their chosen career path and promote safety in their workplaces.

"Similarly, the driver's licence training support will help to remove barriers to apprenticeship employment by providing young people with skills and experience to safely operate a vehicle."

#### **Comments attributed to Education and Training Minister Sue Ellery:**

"The McGowan Labor Government has been working directly with industries to increase the capability of their workforces and produce more skilled workers to meet growing industry demand.

"This suite of initiatives, funded through the 2022-23 State Budget, responds to workforce issues raised by industry leaders at what is a critical time for building and construction.

"The civil construction apprenticeship program will improve the quality of training in civil construction and create robust career pathways into the industry, with the \$5.1 million wage gap subsidy to ensure a pipeline of junior and mature-age qualified apprentices.

"The McGowan Government is also investing to get more tradies on the ground in disaster-hit areas to help with recovery efforts, with \$1.6 million in incentives on offer for apprentices and trainees who go where they're needed most."