

10 DAILY LIBERAL, Thursday October 14 2010

Apprenticeships aplenty with support program

Aspiring tradespeople don't need to leave Dubbo, according to ABL Apprenticeships Centre's general manager Andrew Williams.

Thousands of apprenticeships are offered each year across western NSW in an effort to address the regional skills shortage.

"The government has tripled the incentives for employers with less than 200

employees who take on a new young apprentice in a skills shortage trade before November 12 this year," Mr Williams said.

"There's a huge drive to hire young talent in the region."

There are sixty in-demand trades on the National Skills Need list, which includes bricklaying, carpentry, landscaping, roof painting, panel beating and hairdressing.

Mr Williams was in Dubbo yesterday to meet local organisations and discuss the ABL Apprenticeships Centre's mentoring and support program.

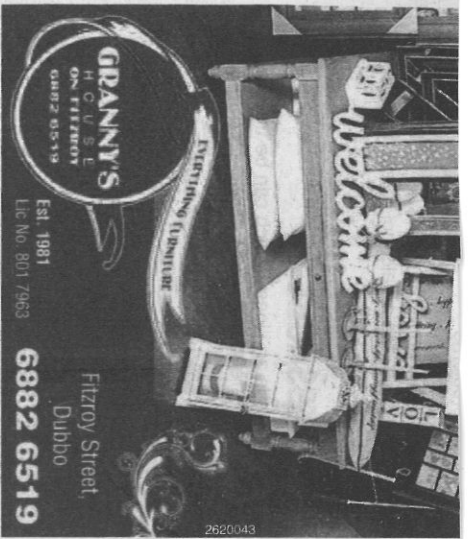
"We're working with employers to get more apprentices into the workforce," he said.

"But a large part of our role is ensuring people finish their programs.

"It's not just about getting young apprentices started, but ensuring they make it to the completion of their training."

For more information on the government's Kickstart Apprenticeship program visit www.australianapprenticeships.gov.au.

The ABL Apprenticeships Centre can be contacted on 1300 363 831.



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