



APPRENTICESHIPS & TRAINING

Local apprentices help strengthen mining industry

The recent extension of the Federal Government's Apprentice Kickstart program is great news for local businesses, with incentives for small and mid-sized businesses to hire young apprentices tripled.

"For any business that

has been thinking of strengthening its workforce, now is a fantastic time to consider taking on an apprentice," Pam Hill, Western NSW Consultant for Australian Business Limited Apprenticeships Centre said.

"The Government has

tripled the incentives for employers with less than 200 employees.

"This means if you take on a new young apprentice in a skills shortage trade before November 12 this year, you may receive \$4,850 in the first year."

One company reaping the rewards of this program is Lovton Coal, a coal processing and haulage company that contracts directly to the Idemitsu Australia Resources owned Boggabri Open-cut Mine located 15 kilometres north east

of Boggabri.

With the local coal mining industry booming, Operations Manager at Lovton Coal, Wade Tordoff, is committed to giving young locals an opportunity to get involved in the industry and to setting the foundations for a skilled local workforce in the future.

Wade has worked closely with Pam to facilitate a smooth entry into the workforce for new apprentices, Jack Gillham, Trent Clark and Darcy Devine.

Jack and Trent are first year apprentice diesel mechanics and Darcy a first year industrial electrician and all were employed under the Apprentice Kickstart program.

"We have worked very closely with Pam Hill of the Australian Business Limited Apprenticeships Centre for four years now and couldn't be happier with the service they pro-

vide," Wade said.

"I am proud to work for a company and a client that encourages the employment of local young adults to give them a start in the mining industry."

Pam said the team at Australian Business Limited Apprenticeships Centre are also providing a new Government supported mentoring service for employers and their new apprentices throughout their first year, to assist employers in inducting and mentoring their apprentices and to help these young adults adjust to full-time work and study.

"Our unique new mentoring program provides support for both the employer and new apprentices.

"It's especially helpful for businesses taking on an apprentice for the first time in that we can help with every aspect of getting them off to a smooth

start.

"We also provide a great support service for the apprentices, so they can connect with other apprentices, access our apprentice help hotline, get tips and advice on how to adjust to the routine of working full time and attend apprentice events," Wade said.

Hiring new staff or training existing employees through an Australian Apprenticeship is a cost effective solution, and with the added financial incentives provided by the Kickstart Extension program for young apprentices as well as wage subsidies that are available for adult apprentices (25 years and over), there's never been a better time to act.

So, if you're considering hiring an apprentice for the first time, or taking on a new one, see Australian Business Limited ad. below.



Lovton Coal employees Wade Tordoff (Operations Manager), Herb Berryman (third year apprentice diesel mechanic), Jack Gillham (1st year apprentice diesel mechanic), Darcy Devine (first year apprentice industrial electrician) and Mick Schulze (OH andS Manager).

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