

MEDIA RELEASE

DATE: Monday, 5 July 2021

HEADLINE: MPA Skills welcomes Mature Age Apprentice push

MPA Skills welcomes the WA Government's announcement today which provides \$5.2m in funding for the *Jobs and Skills WA Adult Apprentice Employer Incentive (AAEI)*, providing eligible businesses with funding support when they hire a mature age apprentice.

The AAEI will help remove the wage gap barrier often faced by older workers looking to retrain and commence an apprenticeship. The AAEI provides businesses with up to \$26 800 over the life of a four year apprenticeship if they take on an apprentice aged 21 years of age or older after 1 July 2021.

MPA Skills CEO Ben Dahlstrom welcomed the announcement and said it is a small, but positive step towards alleviating WA's skill shortage.

"We know that there are older workers out there who, for various reasons, were unable to commence an apprenticeship when they left school, but with a change in circumstances would like to reenter the painting or plumbing industries," said Mr Dahlstrom. "However, these workers have historically been priced out of the market and are unable to become an apprentice as an adult.

This funding is a win-win as it means employers like MPA Skills will have access to a larger talent pool of experienced workers which the market is calling out for, whilst offering meaningful apprenticeship opportunities to more people looking to make a career in the highly-sought after painting and plumbing industries," he said.

MPA Skills looks forward to working with its valuable industry partners and continuing to provide tailored, high-quality plumbing and painting training and employment opportunities for Western Australians.

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For more information, images or quotes, contact Ben Dahlstrom, CEO, MPA Skills, on ben.d@mpaskills.com.au / 0408 356 370.

Note to editors:

MPA Skills is WA's biggest employer of plumbing and painting apprentices. MPA Skills is also renowned in the sector for its industry-leading apprentice and advanced training solutions. Visit www.mpaskills.com.au to learn more.

More information on the WA Government's suite of skills incentives for employers and apprentices can be found here <https://www.jobsandskills.wa.gov.au/training>