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**Senator Hollie Hughes**

Senator for New South Wales

Duty Senator for the Hunter, Newcastle & Patterson

**MEDIA RELEASE**

20 July 2020

**Hunter and Newcastle apprentices to receive support under $2 billion JobTrainer package**

Senator for NSW Hollie Hughes said the Morrison Government’s $2billion dollar JobTrainer skills package will assist thousands of apprentices and trainees across the Newcastle and Hunter region.

Senator Hughes visited HVTC at Rutherford today to meet with some of the 200 apprentices whose employment will be retained due to JobTrainer subsidies, ensuring they can continue their training.

HVTC is an apprentice employment specialist with around 700 apprentices and trainees currently employed across 10 regional branches in NSW.

Senator Hughes said it was heart-warming to meet the young men and women who would directly benefit from JobTrainer support package.

“It’s gratifying to see the direct results of our government’s investment in young people across Newcastle and the Hunter,” said Senator Hughes.

Hughes said that JobTrainer will provide a much-needed boost to job seekers and school

leavers in the region, ensuring locals are trained in the skills needed by local businesses.

“Backing training, apprentices, and jobs is all part of the Morrison Government’s plan to

restore the Newcastle and Hunter economies post the pandemic by keeping locals employed.”

“The JobTrainer Fund will also provide for training places for Newcastle and Hunter school-leavers to access pre-apprenticeships, short courses and full qualifications at no or low-cost,’ said Hughes.

HVTC CEO Sharon Smith said that her organisation was already supporting 80 apprentices and trainees through the Supporting Apprentices and Trainees (SAT) package announced by the government in March.

“This exciting news means nearly 40% of our apprentices will be supported until March 2021, keeping them in training and in a job,” she said.

Smith also welcomed the $1 billion JobTrainer fund, and the commitment to upskill or reskill school leavers and job seekers to create pathways to employment..

“Together with our Registered Training Organisation partner, Central Coast Community College, we are committed to providing skills training and employment opportunities to school leavers and job seekers across the Hunter, Newcastle and Central Coast,” Smith said.

Nationally, the new $1 billion JobTrainer Fund will provide an additional 340,700 training places

to access pre-apprenticeships, short courses and full qualifications to develop new skills in growth sectors.

Prime Minister Scott Morrison has said that the JobTrainer skills package is focused on getting people into jobs.

“JobTrainer will ensure more Australians have the chance to reskill or upskill to fill the jobs

on the other side of this crisis,” the Prime Minister said.

“COVID-19 is unprecedented but I want Australians to be ready for the sorts of jobs that will

come as we build back and recover.”

**Ends.**

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