



MEDIA RELEASE

Friday 16 October 2009

CONTRACTORS WELCOME APPRENTICESHIP SUPPORT

The Australian Constructors Association (ACA) today welcomed the Federal Government's announcement of increased support for apprentice commencements over the coming summer.

The President of the Association, Mr Wal King AO, said that the initiative would ensure that the mistakes of past downturns were not repeated.

"A healthy Australian economy is reliant on a strong skills base", Mr King said

"In the past the construction industry has too often let its investment in training decline during downturns. That invariably results in skills shortages that cost the economy dearly as we struggle to achieve equilibrium in the labour market during the years of recovery".

Mr King said that the relationship between employment and skills is unmistakable and that the apprenticeship was an important foundation stone for careers in construction.

"This is an important initiative that will be particularly attractive to smaller contractors and specialist contractors. But more importantly the Government has supported those ambitious and hard-working young Australians that are looking for a start in our industry. The measures announced today are thoughtful, well-timed and well-directed and the Government should be congratulated", Mr King said.

Inquiries: Jim Barrett 0418 119 887