

## Hon. David Pisoni MP

Minister for Industry and Skills

## Peter Treloar MP

Member for Flinders

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### Government subsidy supports local apprenticeships

Employers in South Australia's regional and rural areas are being encouraged to take part in a new government subsidy scheme offering generous support towards the costs of employing apprentices.

The Minister for Industry and Skills, David Pisoni said he has written letters to all regional councils and Regional Development Australia (RDA) outlining the benefits of the Federal Government \$60 million regional wage subsidy trial.

"Eligible employers will be able to receive payments based on their apprentice's relevant award wage rates, which will be 75 per cent in the first year and scaled down in the following two years," he said.

"This subsidy under the Australian Apprenticeships Incentives Program (AAIP), will support eligible new apprentices in areas such as plumbing, mechanical, electrical, painting trades and hairdressing.

"Businesses across regional South Australia should take advantage of this incentive to tap into the skills of local students and provide opportunities for them closer to their homes."

The Member for Flinders, Peter Treloar MP said the subsidy will not only help create more than 100 new apprenticeships in South Australia but address skill shortages for small business in regional areas.

"Here on the Eyre Peninsula, we are always looking for ways to make it easier for businesses to employ more people, particularly apprentices," Mr Treloar said.

Mr Treloar said this scheme would be welcome and he encouraged employers to look into it.

Minister Pisoni said this program would support Skilling South Australia and its target to create an additional 20,800 apprentices and trainees while also strengthening the vocational education and training (VET) sector.

"This program is ensuring that business is being supported through a skilled workforce, thanks to a four-year \$203 million commitment from both the Federal and State Governments to achieve this target," he said.

The Australian Apprenticeships Incentives Program commences on 1 January 2019. For more information visit [www.vet.skills.sa.gov.au](http://www.vet.skills.sa.gov.au) or phone the dedicated advisory hotline on 1800 673 097.