



**Heather Butler, MP**

Parliamentary Secretary to the Premier

Friday, 27 February 2009

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## **Training the Key for Employers**

The State Government's commitment to addressing skills shortages has been reinforced by a national report which has found employers are recognising the importance of training for their workers.

Parliamentary Secretary to the Premier Heather Butler said employers were focussing on training to improve the quality of their workforces according to the report on the demand for training.

Ms Butler said the National Centre for Vocational Education and Research's report released today examined the demand for training around Australia concentrating on factors that affected individual and employer demand.

"The State Government is firmly committed to addressing skills shortages and providing training in areas of demand," Ms Butler said.

"Through Skills Tasmania the Government is already testing innovative ways to build workforce capability now and into the future."

"The engagement of industry is critical to addressing skills shortages and the Skills Tasmania Board is ensuring there is strong industry involvement in decision making and planning for the future."

"The Tasmanian Skills Strategy guides \$100 million of investment annually in skills and helps us plan and respond to the training needs of industry,"

"It shows that employers are seeking training for their employees because it leads to higher skill levels and therefore greater productivity," Ms Butler said.

"The paper found that while the cost of an apprenticeships to employers is substantial they recognise the need to acquire skilled labour," Ms Butler said.