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Guy Barnett, Minister for Building and Construction

Supporting young people into employment

Creating jobs is a top priority for the Hodgman Liberal Government and since we were elected 8400 jobs have been created and the unemployment rate is now the second lowest of any state in the country.

To help create more jobs, especially for young people, the State Budget contained a game changing \$25 million Youth Employment Strategy that came into effect this week (from July 1) that includes payroll tax relief and \$4000 grants for employing young people.

There has never been a better time to employ an apprentice or a young trainee with construction running hot and Tasmanian businesses enjoying nation leading confidence.

The Hodgman Liberal Government is supporting the building and construction sector with an infrastructure investment of more than \$2 billion in major works and capital upgrades in addition to incentives to encourage Tasmanian businesses to hire young people.

Confidence is also reflected by the latest ABS dwelling approval figures for May which show Tasmania is 13 per cent higher than May last year, compared to a national drop of 18.1 per cent for the same period.

Jobs in the industry are growing with ABS labour force figures for May showing 22,800 people employed in the building and construction sector, with 19,200 of those in full-time employment.

This is in stark contrast to the figures from June 2013 under the previous job-destroying Labor/Green government when only 16,900 were employed in the building sector.

From 1 July this year, if a business that pays payroll tax employs a new apprentice or trainee, payroll tax relief will be available on that new position for two years. And if a business employs a young Tasmanian aged between 15 and 24 who isn't a trainee or an apprentice, the employer will be eligible for payroll tax relief for up to 12 months as well.

Additionally, grants of up to \$4000 are also available for small business which don't pay payroll tax if they employ a new trainee or apprentice.

These are great incentives for Tasmanian businesses to hire new apprentices, trainees and young people in general and we expect they will support about 7600 jobs.

The Hodgman Liberal Government is working with businesses and the construction industry to build Tasmania's future and we are determined to make sure that young Tasmanians have every opportunity to get a job.