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Minister for Energy; Training and Workforce Development, Indigenous Affairs

## Skilling WA

Western Australia is facing a period of sustained economic growth driven by the State's resources and construction sectors. In order to maximise the opportunities from this growth we need to have strategies in place to ensure the State has sufficient skills and labour to meet the requirements of all our industries.

On 10 December 2010 I launched *Skilling WA – A workforce development plan for Western Australia*.

This is a whole of government plan that provides a framework and the strategies to build, attract and retain a skilled workforce by focusing on five strategic goals.

1. Increasing participation in the workforce, particularly among the under-employed and disengaged, mature-aged workers, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and other under-represented groups.
2. Supplementing the Western Australian workforce with skilled migrants to fill employment vacancies unable to be filled by the local workforce.
3. Attracting workers with the right skills to the Western Australian workforce and retaining them by offering access to rewarding employment and a diverse and vibrant community and environment to live in.
4. Providing flexible, responsive and innovative education and training which enables people to develop and utilise the skills necessary for them to realise their potential and contribute to Western Australia's prosperity.
5. Planning and coordinating a strategic State Government response to workforce development issues in Western Australia.

*Skilling WA* has been developed with the input and cooperation of peak employer groups, industry bodies, a range of employers and government agencies and means more training opportunities. Already since its release, the State Government has committed to investing \$24.6 million for almost 8,000 additional training places in 2011 to help Western Australians develop their skills. This builds on the 7,600 new training places funded in the 2010-11 State Budget.

We are working with employers to remove those barriers that currently stop people working. The State Government is establishing four Aboriginal Workforce Development Centres in regional Western Australia under the *Training together - working together* initiative to connect Aboriginal people with employers, and to get the training and support required for Aboriginal people to obtain meaningful long term employment.

To assist employers and students, the State is working with employers to pilot models for a more flexible and responsive apprenticeship and traineeship system.

Laid on the Table of the  
Legislative Assembly

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This paper should not be  
removed from the Chamber

This framework is based on the premise that 'good governance equals good business' and will ensure that public monies are well spent.

In recognising Western Australia's public investment in training, I am hosting a signing ceremony on 18 February 2011. At the event the Governing Council Chair and Managing Director of each State Training Provider, and I will sign a Governance Charter. In signing the Charter each State Training Provider is committing to the implementation of the governance framework and embracing good governance in their organisation.

This will ensure the accountability of State Training Providers to the public, while also assisting in providing Western Australians with a vibrant and diverse training market.

I table a copy of Skilling WA and a copy of the Executive Summary of Skilling WA.