



MEDIA RELEASE

MINERALS COUNCIL OF AUSTRALIA

MCA WELCOMES NEW FUNDING FOR SKILLS DEVELOPMENT

Statement by Mitchell Hooke, Chief Executive Officer, Minerals Council of Australia

The Minerals Council of Australia welcomes Deputy Prime Minister Julia Gillard's announcement of additional funding for the Enterprise Based Productivity Places Program (EBPPP).

Enterprise-level skills development is fundamental to lifting productivity and enabling mining sector employers to meet the challenges of the rapidly growing minerals commodities market. It is far more relevant to the industry than the more general Productivity Places Program.

Today's announcement is another positive sign that the Federal Government is seeking to work with industry to boost the capacity of the Australian workforce.

It is very pleasing to note that the broad range of mining enterprises sponsored by SkillsDMC has been included in the new funding round. SkillsDMC is the minerals sector's industry skills council.

SkillsDMC have been successful in gaining about 1,500 places which is a good outcome for our sector. It builds on the strong interest shown in the trial round of the EBPPP.

Demand for places from minerals companies under the initial EBPPP far exceeded the available places and we anticipate the same outcome following today's announcement.

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