

14 May 2014

### **VERTO welcomes Federal Government's commitment to service areas**

VERTO CEO, Ron Maxwell, today welcomed a number of initiatives outlined in the 2014-2015 Federal Budget for the employment services, training, apprenticeships and community support sectors.

Mr Maxwell said that despite it being a tough budget for some areas of the community, there was some good news for the service areas VERTO supports.

"While we are waiting to see the detail on a number of changes that have been made in our service areas, we welcome the Government's continued funding, support, and concerted effort to make our industry more streamlined and effective," Mr Maxwell said.

"Specifically, we welcome the introduction of the new *Industry Skills Fund*, which aims to deliver around 200,000 training places and support over the next four years. This fund will give small businesses the opportunity to develop their skill base and excel in an increasingly competitive market.

"The Government's incentive plan to encourage small business to employ unemployed people over 50 is also welcomed. Retaining the skill and experience of this valued demographic in our workforce is crucial to increasing productivity.

"Similarly, the *Work for the Dole* scheme will benefit many community organisations, who will see more young people participate in local projects," Mr Maxwell said.

Mr Maxwell also said the introduction of *Trade Support Loans* was a great win for young people wanting to undertake an apprenticeship, and that the scheme would encourage school leavers to up-skill earlier through an apprenticeship.

"The introduction of *Trade Support Loans* will have a significant impact on our apprenticeships sector. When young people are starting out in the workforce, more often than not they need stable financial support until they are qualified. This initiative will provide that stability," Mr Maxwell said.

Mr Maxwell has also today welcomed the Government's commitment to streamline 150 indigenous programmes into five broad programmes.

"Streamlining indigenous programmes means more funding can be directed to creating further opportunities for indigenous people. This must continue to be the core purpose of these programmes.

“I look forward to seeing further details shortly from the Government regarding the changes that will impact VERTO’s service areas,” Mr Maxwell said.

**\*\* ENDS \*\***

**About VERTO**

*VERTO is a community owned not-for-profit organisation delivering a range of vocational services to assist individuals, employers, and industries in communities across New South Wales. We have offices in 26 locations throughout the Central West, South West, North Coast, Greater Sydney and Hunter Valley regions of New South Wales. For more information, visit [verto.org.au](http://verto.org.au)*