



MEDIA RELEASE

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The Environment Grows Apprenticeships at Sprinta

Tasmania's first environmentally responsible printer, Sprinta in Launceston has seen such a demand for its printing services that it has advertised for two (2) new apprentices.

David Peck, Managing Director at Sprinta, said that since the company unveiled their environmentally responsible printing capabilities, they had been surprised by the support the business community had shown to their initiative.

"It is quite incredible how environmentally conscious government departments and businesses of all sizes are in Tasmania," David said.

"We have seen a real surge in business, predominantly from companies and departments that had the will to use environmentally responsible printing, but found it difficult to source in Tasmania," David added.

"The two new apprentices will fill an immediate need, but already we can see that more training and apprenticeship opportunities will arise for prospective employees who want to learn the printing industry from an environmentally responsible perspective.

"We hope that in years to come, our apprentices' will form a vanguard of new, environmentally-aware printers that infiltrate other companies with their skills, or start their own environmentally responsible printing companies.

Sprinta has also received national recognition for its initiative in the environmental printing area and its training and employment record.

Michael Ferguson, Federal Member for Bass said that it is encouraging to see a Tasmanian business leading the way, yet again, by applying technology in an environmentally responsible manner, which in turn creates long term employment and training opportunities.

"The Federal Government, through its *Skills for the Future* package, supports Australian apprentices to help them gain the necessary skills to eventually run their own businesses. Between 2006 and 2009, the Federal Government has committed \$11.5 billion to vocational and technical education," Mr. Ferguson said.

"Apprentices need support and I'm proud that there are 211 local apprentices who receive the Commonwealth Trade Learning Scholarship, providing \$1000 to assist with their learning. We also have 342 local apprentices who are eligible for the Tools for Your Trade kit, which gives them \$800 to buy the work equipment they need.

"It is particularly encouraging that Sprinta is training apprentices, not only in a trade, but giving them a solid grounding in sound environmentally responsible business practices. This type of initiative is exactly what the *Skills for the Future* set out to achieve," Mr. Ferguson added.

For further details, photo opportunities and interviews, please contact David Peck on (03) 6334 3577.