



An Australian, State, Territory and Local Government Initiative

Australia's largest youth talent competition now open!

Forget reality TV shows – if you're creative and you know it, Australia's largest national talent competition is the best way to show it! The National Talent Competition (NTC) is part of the National Youth Week 2009 (NYW 09) celebrations and will showcase Australia's best young creative talents. All young Australians aged 12 to 25 are invited to RockIT, WriteIT, ShootIT, SnapIT and DesignIT until entries close on April 14.

The theme for NYW 09 is Make a Move – encouraging young people to strive for their goals and live their dreams, be it travel, sport, community involvement, study, career, art or music.

The NTC has more than \$70,000 worth of prizes up for grabs including computer and software packages, music vouchers and professional camera equipment. Entries will be judged in two age categories – Junior (12-17) and Senior (18-25). Industry representatives will select an overall winner in each category while an online poll (held after NYW) will give young Australians the chance to decide their People's Choice winners. NTC Industry judge Faustina "Fuzzy" Agolley from Network Ten's Video Hits urged young Australians to 'Make a Move' by entering the NTC and showing the nation what they're made of.

"The National Talent Competition is an awesome opportunity for young people around Australia to demonstrate their talents, impress some top industry judges and score some great prizes that will help them to pursue their passion," Fuzzy said.

"The NTC is a great career launch-pad. Chart-topping band Operator Please was a previous winner of RockIT! So grab your chance at the big time and jump online at www.youthweek.com for all the entry details."

6000 new jobs for young people to boost NSW economy

The Premier of NSW, Nathan Rees, today announced 6000 new government apprenticeships and cadetships over four years in a major boost to jobs for young people and to the NSW economy.

Mr Rees said starting this year, there would be a tripling of the number of government apprentices by employing an additional 1000 apprentices every year for the next four years.

"This is a \$370 million investment in jobs for young people over seven years," Mr Rees said.

"We are facing the most severe global economic downturn since the Great Depression.

"My Government will take every action it can to boost jobs and stimulate the NSW economy.

"Governments across the world

are facing the threat of rising of unemployment flowing from the US financial melt down.

"This plan – to employ 4000 more apprentices over the next four years – is about Government leading by example."

Mr Rees also announced a new NSW Government cadetship program providing 500 entry level positions within the NSW public sector for school leavers, every year for four years.

"That's 4000 new apprentice positions and 2000 new cadets by 2013 – giving young people a chance to learn valuable skills and help the NSW economy fight its way through these tough economic times.

"We know that young people, fresh out of school, are among the most vulnerable in times of recession and rising unemployment.

"By providing these new jobs and training places within Government

we can provide career opportunities for many.

"This is a win win. We're providing much needed employment and we're training up a skilled workforce that can help us to deliver critical infrastructure projects so vital to health of the NSW economy."

Mr Rees said the NSW Government's \$56 billion infrastructure program and the Rudd Government's \$42 billion stimulus package would see a massive boost to jobs.

"We will train a workforce ready to build our way through these tough economic times – starting with Government jobs."

Mr Rees said last year, 500 apprentices commenced employment with the Government and this year 1,000 more will be taken on.

"There are currently close to 1700 apprentices working on government projects, including critical infrastructure such as power generation and supply, water supply, transport and health.

We will boost that workforce." Mr Rees said the plan will also encourage more people to undertake an apprenticeship.

"With unemployment expected to increase over the next year, I want people to consider an apprenticeship," he said.

Australian research has shown that more than 90% of former apprentices achieve long-term full-time employment and earn more than other people in training and those who do no postschool study. (David D Curtis, LSAY Research Report 52, 2008)

Mr Rees said the 4,000 apprentices will work four days a week with government agencies and spend one day a week in training, the majority with TAFE NSW.

"A highly skilled workforce is just one part of his Government's plan to beat the challenges of the global financial crisis."



CARNIVAL CELEBRATIONS

Greece's Carnival season known as "Apokries" is a period of eating, drinking, dancing and masquerading. Traditionally, it begins ten weeks before Greek Orthodox Easter and culminates on the weekend before "Clean Monday," (Ash Monday) the first day of Lent. This year, the carnival season lasts from February 8 until March 2.

The roots of Carnival celebrations and customs can be traced back to ancient Greece and are linked to the worship of Dionysus, the Greek god of wine and festivity.

In fact, Carnival is closely related to the cultural heritage of each region and every year many traditional customs are being revived in different parts of the country.

The Patras Carnival is the most popular in Greece, ranking among the top carnival celebrations in the world. The Carnival of Xanthi (Thrace) and Skyros include more traditional events. In Corfu and Rethymno (Crete), the celebrations have absorbed a slightly Venetian flavour from the periods that the islands were under the control of Venice. In Galaxidi, Carnival events culminate on the first Monday of Lent with a parade of floats, transformed into a battlefield, as the "warriors" mercilessly pelt each other with ample quantities of variously coloured flour.

«ΗΤΑΝ ΑΠΛΑ ΕΝΑ ΓΡΗΓΟΡΟ ΕΠΑΓΓΕΛΜΑΤΙΚΟ ΤΑΞΙΔΙ ΚΙ ΕΤΣΙ ΔΕΝ ΣΚΕΦΤΗΚΑ ΠΟΤΕ ΝΑ ΚΑΝΩ ΤΑΞΙΔΙΩΤΙΚΗ ΑΣΦΑΛΕΙΑ.»

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