

Right training helps future proof a young career

YOUNG people can future proof their career by accessing the right training options, says chief operating officer of Sarina Russo Job Access, Tony Thomas.

Mr Thomas said appropriate training would ensure young people, particularly school leavers, entered the workforce with the right skills and attitude.

The agency understands the skill sets young people need to get a particular job. It specialises in helping those under 25 years of age without a Year 12 or equivalent qualification access government-funded education or training courses.

"With the right training we have seen amazing transformation in many young jobseekers, particularly those who overcome tremendous personal difficulties," Mr Thomas said.

"These young people are undertaking training and development courses through Sarina Russo Job Access and planning their career.

"Some want to start their own business under the New Enterprise Incentive Scheme."

Mr Thomas said Sarina Russo Job Access worked with young jobseekers to prepare a written Employment Pathway Plan which detailed strategies to improve their job readiness.

"The Employment Pathway Fund may also be available to fund work-related expenses

that will enhance their job prospects such as the purchase of special protective clothing, licences, books and equipment," he said.

"It is important these young people get the facts about available training options as it can affect their eligibility for income support, including Youth Allowance."

Sarina Russo Job Access promotes the benefits of more than 600 government-funded traineeships and apprenticeships as a fulfilling career.

Since 2003 it has placed more than 135,000 jobseekers with more than 75,000 employers.

"Despite the economic downturn, skills are still the key driver of economic growth and apprenticeship or traineeship is the first step on the road to professional, financial and personal rewards," Mr Thomas said.

Sarina Russo Job Access works with Registered Training Organisations to develop flexible on-site training with a strong work experience component. This ensures the young people have the best chance to become job ready.

As Mr Thomas puts it: "Anything of value does not come easily, but the rewards will follow if young jobseekers build the foundation for a future career through further education and training."

☐ Sarina Russo Job Access can be contacted on 13 15 59.



Sarina Russo Job Access chief operating officer Tony Thomas discusses job-ready training options with Kiama Butterworth (left) and Jason Murray (right).