



**The Hon Kevin Andrews MP
Minister for Employment and Workplace Relations
Minister Assisting the Prime Minister for the Public Service**

MEDIA RELEASE

11 May 2004

Sugar Industry Reform Package – Retraining Assistance

As part of the Sugar Industry Reform Package, Job Network will play an important role in delivering assistance to sugar cane growers who are leaving the industry and to sugar industry workers who lose their jobs as a result of the sugar industry reform.

We will be putting our existing, high-performing Job Network to work as a key vehicle to provide extra help to sugar industry employees who need job-seeking help.

We will extend eligibility to Job Network services to affected growers and workers in the sugar industry.

We will also be providing Job Network members with extra funding to assist this group with retraining, career advice and a skills audit.

This will complement the other forms of assistance available to the industry outlined in the Prime Minister's statement.

Under the Job Network element of the package, Job Network members will have access to \$1000 to assist eligible growers and workers. This is on top of the funding already available to Job Network to assist the unemployed.

The Australian Department of Employment and Workplace Relations will also work with Job Network members, employers and other players in affected communities to identify alternative employment for those who lose their jobs as a result of the sugar industry reform.

These new measures will commence on 1 July 2004.

People seeking employment assistance, information, advice or to register interest in the retraining assistance can call 13 62 68.

MEDIA inquiries: Felicity Dargan (Press Secretary) 0409 550 446.