

MEDIA RELEASE



27 March 2009

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AUSTRALIAN TRUCKING CONVENTION TO COVER SKILLS, WORKFORCE ISSUES

The Federal Minister for Employment Participation, Brendan O'Connor, will set the scene for the workforce sessions at this year's Australian Trucking Convention, with a keynote speech about the Government's skills and workforce strategy.

The 2009 Australian Trucking Convention will be held at the Gold Coast Convention and Entertainment Centre from 21-24 April.

The Chairman of the Australian Trucking Association, Trevor Martyn, said that skills and workforce issues were critical to the future of the trucking industry.

"The convention program on Friday 24 April will focus on how trucking companies can get the skilled and motivated employees they need. It will look at the government programs that are available to help, as well as how we can train drivers better," Mr Martyn said.

"As part of the program, the Chief Executive of the Transport and Logistics Industry Skills Council (TLISC), Geoff Gwilym, will launch TLISC's 2009 environmental scan of the industry's current and future workforce demands.

"Geoff's presentation will provide delegates with must-have information about the recruitment challenges facing every company in the industry.

"The discussion will then turn to possible solutions. Neil Chambers from the Victorian Transport Association, Louise Perram-Fisk from Queensland Transport, Peter Thompson from Kagans and Ian McMillan from TDT Victoria will talk about government/industry partnership programs.

"These partnerships are helping companies to establish new pathways for young people to enter the industry and to upskill supervisory staff who have lots of experience but no recognised qualifications.

"There's no doubt that the current heavy vehicle driver training and testing system is an obstacle to young employees and non-heavy vehicle license holders entering the industry.

"The new chief executive of DECA, Bruce McDonald, will talk about better and more innovative ways to train drivers.

"In addition, the ATA is developing a proposal for a national driver licensing scheme. We want to make sure we're on the right track, so there'll be a feedback session featuring the Chair of the ATA's Skills and Workforce Committee, Derek Nathan, Neil Chambers from the VTA, and John Gilbert, one of TLISC's training package specialists.

"The Friday 24 April sessions at the 2009 Australian Trucking Convention are set to be a vital source of information and ideas for every trucking operator who has to worry about staff training, recruitment and planning," Mr Martyn said.

To register for the 2009 Australian Trucking Convention, visit www.ataevents.net.au.

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National Voice of the Australian Trucking Industry