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**$800,000 FOR INFECTION CONTROL TRAINING FOR TERRITORY BUSINESSES**

The Northern Territory Government will match $400,000 in Federal Government funding to deliver low cost infection control training to Territory businesses.

The training will enable the rollout of specific infection control short courses to a wide variety of businesses to make workplaces COVID-19 safe.

Customer facing industries such as retail, hospitality, food preparation and transport and logistics, will be prioritised, along with cleaning and security service industries.

Businesses will pay no fee or a small fee for training previously only widely available in the health sector.

Additional training will also be available to increase infection control skill levels in sectors such as aged and disability care.

The funding is part of a new national $80 million infection control fund, which the Federal Government and all State and Territory governments have agreed to jointly invest in.

Rollout of training will commence immediately and will be available to all eligible businesses by 1 July 2020. The Northern Territory Government will facilitate the delivery of the training.

Minister for Employment, Skills, Small and Family Business, Senator the Hon Michaelia Cash, thanked all states and territories for their rapid collaboration and agreeing to match the $40 million in Commonwealth funding.

“With a critical need to keep Australians safe during the coronavirus pandemic we’ve taken urgent action to provide nationally-accredited training to ensure customer-facing workplaces can re-open safely and as quickly as possible,” Minister Cash said.

“This infection control training is designed to empower workers by teaching them the skills and knowledge they need to decrease risk and transmission of infection while carrying out their daily duties.

“The trained workers will help to inspire confidence in their customers while also helping to minimise the risk of spreading the COVID-19 virus as Australia re-opens businesses, rebuilds the workforce and positions for strong and rapid economic recovery.”

Northern Territory Acting Minister for Workforce Training, Paul Kirby, said the Territory was making the training available to eligible businesses, complementing the Government’s roadmap to the new normal.

“Because the Territory is the safest place in the nation, we have been the first jurisdiction to ease restrictions in a staged, steady and safe process.

“The success of our roadmap to the new normal depends on Territorians maintaining physical distancing of 1.5 metres and good hygiene practices.

“We are very happy to be jointly funding and administering these new infection control short courses to help our Territory businesses do the best they can in maintaining the best possible hygiene and stopping the spread of COVID-19.”

For more information, go to <https://nt.gov.au/employ/job-seekers-affected-by-covid-19/free-training-courses>

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