

25 February 2009

## **MEDIA STATEMENT**

### **EGT proactively protecting electrical apprenticeships**

Since the economic downturn hit WA, EGT has strived to keep their apprentices out in the workforce. Despite increasing pressure to stand down apprentices, they have maintained placements for all current apprentices and continued on and off the job training as usual.

A recent survey conducted by Group Training Australia noted that 80% of group training organizations were feeling the impact of the current downturn and like most of these businesses; EGT is monitoring the situation and adjusting systems accordingly.

In an effort to keep the apprentices employed and thus continue to supply industry with qualified, skilled tradespeople EGT has put a number of measures in place which include:

- ✓ Seeking more host employers –existing staff have been re deployed to focus solely on this objective
- ✓ No further intakes of new apprentices until we can guarantee ongoing employment
- ✓ Completing competent 4<sup>th</sup> year apprentices early
- ✓ Rotating apprentices through leave and off the job training

These changes are designed to ensure training continuity for all current apprentices which will in turn position EGT to respond to market demand and ensure a swift return to recruitment when necessary.

Mention must also be made that in February EGT were forced to stand down 16 probationary apprentices but these young people remain a top priority for re employment at the first opportunity.

“It is important that all employers continue to invest in training our future workforce. When the market improves again the skilled labour shortage which existed before the current crisis can then be averted” explained Stuart Diepeveen, EGT’s General Manager.

For further information, please contact Stuart Diepeveen on 9240 4877.