

Get covered for accident and personal liability insurance

New initiative to gain skills

Short-term work experience could lead to a long-term job

LINDA NEWTON

LOCAL job seekers, undertaking work experience, will have their accident and personal liability insurance paid for, according to Bundaberg's Senior Employment Consultant for Sarina Russo Job Access Linda Newton.

Mrs Newton said the initiative, that began on January 1 will help long-term unemployed job seekers, Indigenous Australians, people with a disability, and some parents on income support.

"Unpaid work experience often leads to a full or part time job, but an outstanding issue for employers has always been the cost of accident and personal liability insurance," Mrs Newton said.

"Too often, concerns about the costs of workers' compensation for some disadvantaged groups put un-

necessary constraints on the chances of job seekers gaining valuable real world exposure to the workplace.

"Job seekers will continue to receive income support payments while participating in short-term work experience that could lead to a long-term job.

"The initiative will also help employers who are experiencing workforce shortages as a result of the ageing population have access to a greater pool of potential employees.

"Sarina Russo Job Access will assist in the management of work experience placements of up to eight-weeks duration."

General Manager of Sarina Russo Job Access Sarina Russo, said the Minister for Workforce Participation, Dr Sharman Stone should be

congratulated on an initiative which will increase work opportunities for disadvantaged groups.

"Work experience is an effective way for job seekers to find work and this initiative will increase the number of work experience opportunities and ensure job seekers are adequately covered for accident, injury and public liability insurance," Ms Russo said.

Mrs Newton said any registered local business can telephone her at Sarina Russo Job Access 4131 8100 about hosting a job seeker for work experience, as long as the placement provides the opportunity for the job seeker to gain ongoing sustainable employment within that business.



TRAINING: Through work experience people can develop new skills