



MEDIA RELEASE

Amanda Rishworth MP
Federal Member for Kingston

24 May 2010

Coalition takes trades out of schools

Amanda Rishworth MP, Member for Kingston, today called on the Coalition to explain to the people of Southern Adelaide why they plan to remove trade training from Australian schools and make it harder for our kids to learn a trade.

The call follows the Opposition's announcement that they will cancel the Rudd Government's 10 year program to provide every one of the 2450 secondary schools across Australia with a trades training centre if they want one.

Ms Rishworth said "The cuts to this program are just the start of Tony Abbott and Joe Hockey's cuts to essential services that will hurt Australian families.

"By the start of the 2011 school year 68 centres will be operating with 230 projects approved covering 732 schools.

"Mr Abbott needs to come out and explain why he believes that every school in Southern Adelaide shouldn't have the opportunity to invest in our kids' future by teaching trades.

"Students in the Southern Suburbs of Adelaide are set to benefit from the Rudd Government's fantastic program with a Trades Training Centre planned for Willunga High, Hallett Cove High, Reynella East High, Wirreanda High and Seaford 6-12 schools."

Ms Rishworth said that in the three years Labor has been in government, they will have provided three times the trades training centres the previous government did in 11 long years.

Ms Rishworth said "We all know that there is a skills shortage looming in Australia and we should be encouraging our kids into trades.

"Parents and students looking to get into a trade need only to look very closely at what the previous government did to trades training when they were in Government to see that Mr Abbott cannot be trusted to invest in skills."

The Rudd Government is investing record amounts into skills training to help ensure the skills shortage is addressed. In the Budget, the Government announced extra support for businesses to take on 24 500 apprentices as part of an extension to the highly successful *Apprentice Kickstart* program.

Ms Rishworth said "The Apprentice Kickstart program ran over last summer and saw 24 000 new apprentices get a start in their chosen field. In this period alone, the initiative helped 92 apprentices find employment in Southern Adelaide."