



MEDIA RELEASE

Amanda Rishworth MP Federal Member for Kingston

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Skills Connect – connecting skills to jobs

A new workforce agency will help train and retrain workers in Southern Adelaide for new jobs in growing industries and higher skilled roles, Amanda Rishworth MP Federal Member for Kingston said today.

Ahead of National Skills Week, the Gillard Government announced Skills Connect – a range of initiatives designed to consolidate the Government’s skills programs and better target industry and worker training.

The National Workforce and Productivity Agency would be brought forward to advise on how best to meet continuing demand for skilled workers and support industries and workers affected by structural adjustment.

The Agency will target pressure points in Australia’s patchwork economy with a range of industries designed to consolidate the Government’s skills programs and better target industry and worker training.

“Workers need access to training if they want to transition from sectors in our economy which are experiencing structural adjustment to sectors in which skilled labour is in strong demand,” Ms Rishworth said.

“The Agency will advise government on how best to target training and up-skilling for new and existing workers, and for those workers directly affected by restructuring, in an effort to meet the skills demands of booming industries.”

A streamlining of the Government’s skills programs would result in \$110 million being made available to industry for the remainder of 2011-12.

Labor also announced an expansion of the Fly-In, Fly-Out pilot into four priority regions to be determined in consultation with state jurisdictions and industry.

FIFO coordinators in each priority region will develop links between mining, construction and infrastructure projects in remote locations and skilled workers in order to capitalise on the fly-in, fly-out job opportunities in our growing resources and infrastructure industries.

Ms Rishworth said “These coordinators will establish training and employment pathways, not only for skilled workers, but also for unemployed job seekers looking to work in the industry.

“Coordinators will work with local Job Services Australia providers, training organisations and employers operating in remote parts of Australia to ensure job seekers have the skills they need to work in FIFO arrangements.

“The FIFO coordinators program is part of the Government’s effort to keep pace with the demand for skilled workers, and help communities undergoing structural change.

“The best way to do that is in partnership with industry.

“This role will be pivotal to placing skilled workers in booming industries for fly-in, fly-out work opportunities.”

The FIFO coordinator pilot was one of the recommendations of the National Resource Sector Workforce Strategy.

Ms Rishworth said “The values of learning a trade as an apprentice or trainee will be highlighted during Australia’s inaugural National Skills Week in an effort to encourage other Australians to take up similar life-changing opportunities.

“National Skills Week is a time to shine a spotlight on the hundreds of career opportunities and thousands of training places available for Australians of all ages.

“The Gillard Government recognises the benefits of having a job, for the individual and the economy, and National Skills Week will give potential apprentices and trainees the chance to learn about these benefits first hand.”