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Federal Member for Newcastle

THE HON GREG COMBET AM MP

Federal Member for Charlton

THE HON JOEL FITZGIBBON MP

Federal Member for Hunter

JILL HALL MP

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\$5.7 MILLION TO BOOST TRADES TRAINING FOR STUDENTS IN THE HUNTER REGION

Students at Hunter Christian School, Glendale High School, Toronto High School, St. Philip's Christian College, Maitland Christian School and Cessnock High School who want to enter a trade will benefit from a \$5,752,500 Federal Government investment to build local trades training centres.

Local Federal Members Sharon Grierson, Greg Combet, Joel Fitzgibbon and Jill Hall said that the funding is the latest instalment in the Australian Government's \$2.5 billion program to help schools build and upgrade trade training facilities.

"Our Government is committed to ensuring every Australian student, including students in Newcastle, can get the skills they need to succeed in tomorrow's workforce," Member for Newcastle, Sharon Grierson said.

"This is fantastic news for students at Hunter Christian School who will receive up to \$1,300,000 to build a Trade Training Centre with an electrotechnology workshop and see the refurbishment of an existing engineering workshop, delivering Certificate I and II qualifications in electrotechnology and engineering for local students."

Glendale High School will receive up to \$1,315,500 to refurbish existing facilities to include a commercial kitchen, allowing the school to deliver Certificate I and II qualifications in hospitality.

Toronto High School will receive up to \$631,500 to refurbish existing facilities to include an engineering workshop, allowing the school to deliver Certificate I and II qualifications in engineering.

"We know that a person leaving school before finishing Year 11 will earn around 20 per cent below average earnings. We also know that too many school leavers are falling through the cracks and are not successfully making the move to further study or work," Member for Charlton, Greg Combet said.

"We recognise the need for more Australians to have trades qualifications. Equally we recognise that while going to university may suit some students, it's not for everyone."

"St Philip's Christian College Cessnock Campus will receive up to \$1,500,000 to establish the Lomas Sustainability Park Trade Training Centre along with Maitland Christian School, housing engineering and construction workshops that will deliver essential qualifications," Member for Hunter, Joel Fitzgibbon said.

"Cessnock High School will also receive up to \$1,005,500 to establish the Cessnock Trade Training Centre, to include a commercial kitchen and provide equipment, delivering hospitality qualifications to our Region's students."

"This investment in schools in the Hunter Region is part of \$1.2 billion already provided by the Australian Government for more than 370 Trade Training Centres benefiting over 1,060 secondary schools nationally," Member for Shortland, Jill Hall said.

"With these centres, our Government is investing in students and tomorrow's workforce, ensuring local businesses can access skilled employees now and into the future."

Further information is available at www.tradetrainingcentres.deewr.gov.au