



Sharon Grierson MP
Federal Member for Newcastle

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FRESH IDEAS ON EDUCATION TO BENEFIT NEWCASTLE

Federal Member for Newcastle Sharon Grierson says Labor's proposed *Education Revolution for Australia's Economic Future* will significantly benefit Australia and the Hunter region.

Federal Labor argues in the Paper that increasing the workforce's level of education boosts productivity, workforce participation and economic growth.

"Kevin Rudd is proposing fresh ideas while John Howard rests on his laurels," Ms Grierson said.

"The effects of the Howard Government's complacency - which has seen annual productivity growth slip from 3.2% under Labor to 2.2% now - are easily seen in Newcastle."

Teenage unemployment in Newcastle now stands at 28.9% after a ninth consecutive monthly increase in December.

"The Howard Government just isn't investing enough in the education and training opportunities our young people need to find a job."

Meanwhile, the Howard Government has cut public investment in tertiary education by 7% and the combined HECS debt of people in Newcastle stands at over \$106 million dollars.

"John Howard's HECS debt hangs around the neck of every graduate trying to afford a house or start a family."

"Australia needs nothing less than a substantial and sustained increase in the quantity of our investment - and the quality of our education - from early childhood to mature age."

"Federal Labor's plan to put education at the very top of its priorities is good news for the people and the economy of Newcastle."

"Kevin Rudd is looking to the future while John Howard rests on the reforms of the past."

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