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LABOR'S YOUTH GUARANTEE: TACKLING YOUTH UNEMPLOYMENT IN NEWCASTLE

Labor's *Youth Guarantee* means that unemployed teenagers in the Newcastle region will get more support and assistance to get them into a good job, Jenny Macklin announced today.

"A Latham Labor Government will require local jobless teenagers to participate in our new *Link-Up* initiative – an intensive and targeted assistance program to get young people into a job.

Ms Macklin said that the aim of *Link-Up* was to stop today's local young job seekers becoming tomorrow's long term unemployed.

"This means that teenagers who are out of work and training will get the opportunities they need to get off the unemployment queue and into training or a job.

"Sharon Grierson and Labor want to give more local young people the backing to learn or earn. Doing nothing should not be an option," Ms Macklin said.

Jenny Macklin and Sharon Grierson made the Newcastle commitment at a local youth forum where young people, community groups and educators came together to talk about the problems confronting the young jobless in the region.

Mrs Grierson said that too many young people in the area were not in either full-time work or study.

"Youth unemployment in the Newcastle region is almost 30 per cent. That's over one in four local teenagers out of work and looking for a full time job," Mrs Grierson said.

"*Link-Up* will deliver targeted support as soon as a young person starts receiving unemployment benefits – providing them with the backing and opportunities they need to get a job," said Ms Macklin.

Labor's *Link-Up* program represents a \$49.4 million investment in communities across Australia where youth unemployment is very high.

Ms Macklin said that Labor will also create 7,500 new apprenticeships and 7,500 new TAFE places for 15 to 18 year olds and pay the TAFE fees for secondary students to do TAFE courses.

Labor's *Youth Guarantee* means that all 15 to 18 year olds will get support to either study at school, TAFE, or university or be in a job or apprenticeship. There'll be new strategies to keep more young people at school completing year 12 and measures to make sure early school leavers get training and don't fall into unemployment. Labor's Youth Guarantee includes:

- No TAFE fees for secondary school students
- 7,500 new TAFE places and 7,500 new apprenticeships for 15 to 18 year olds
- Over 1,000 Training Mentors in schools, TAFEs and workplaces whose job will be to make sure young people do not join the unemployment queue.
- A new Jobs Gateway to give 10,000 early school leavers a wage subsidised job and up to two years training

Labor's \$700 million *Youth Guarantee* builds on Labor's commitment to create 20,000 new TAFE places and 20,000 new university places each year.