



**Sharon Grierson MP**  
Federal Member for Newcastle



## Media Alert

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### **UNDER HOWARD APPRENTICES PAY UP-FRONT FEES**

Howard's proposed new technical colleges do not deliver answers to the Hunter's skill shortages, with students having to pay up-front full fees for their apprenticeships.

The Minister for Training, Brendan Nelson conceded this morning that a user-pays principle underpins Mr Howard's new Technical Colleges.

Not satisfied with increasing the cost of a university education, Mr Howard now wants to put a career in the traditional trades out of reach for most young Australians.

Under a Latham Labor government a 15 to 18 year old student undertaking their qualifications at TAFE, will pay nothing.

Labor will provide \$5.8 million over four years to fund 220 new *Skill Up Apprenticeships* in Newcastle and the Hunter Region.

Teenage unemployment in Newcastle is a staggering 30.8 per cent, yet businesses desperately need more skilled workers.

*Skill Up* will help regional businesses employ and train an apprentice by providing up to \$10,000 per year in wage training subsidies.

Newcastle and the Hunter Region has a skills crisis now. Labor will make it easier for more small and medium sized businesses to meet their labour force needs by increasing support to Group Training Organisations, like Newcastle based HunterNet Group Training.

Only Labor has a plan to address the skills crisis now.

Labor believes skills are a passport to opportunity in life, Labor will give more people in Newcastle backing to get skills for better jobs and stronger economic growth.

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