



Sharon Grierson MP
Federal Member for Newcastle



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NEWCASTLE'S YOUTH UNEMPLOYMENT RATE STILL UNACCEPTABLE

The latest youth unemployment figures show that the young people of Newcastle are still being denied access to jobs and opportunities, Sharon Grierson, Member for Newcastle, said today.

The youth unemployment rate fell marginally, from 31.1% in December to 30.7% in January.

"Newcastle's youth unemployment rate remains the highest in New South Wales," Ms Grierson said. "The Federal Government has done nothing to improve the chances of our young people finding jobs."

"We are also gravely concerned about an apparent shortage of jobs for unskilled workers, and call on the Federal Government to urgently investigate the skills shortages affecting our region," Ms Grierson said.

"These skills shortages, along with the infrastructure bottlenecks affecting ports such as Newcastle, have already been identified by the Reserve Bank as barriers to Australia fulfilling its economic potential."

"In the same way, this unacceptable 30% youth unemployment rate is a waste of the potential of Newcastle's young people," Ms Grierson said.

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