



Work experience for National Trade Cadets

Julia Gillard and Labor
Let's move Australia forward



WORK EXPERIENCE FOR NATIONAL TRADE CADETS

The Gillard Labor Government will invest \$25 million to ensure school students gain experience and confidence in a real work environment as part of the National Trade Cadetship being delivered in Trades Training Centres.

Up to 50,000 additional structured work experience places will be provided, with the first cohort of students undertaking a National Trade Cadetship in 2012 to be the first to benefit.

Why we need work experience for National Trade Cadets

There is evidence that students who have a good understanding of what will be involved in an apprenticeship and good foundation skills are more likely to finish their apprenticeship.¹

Students need to understand the practical side of their training and gain experience and confidence in a real work environment before making decisions about their future careers and committing to an apprenticeship. These 50,000 work experience places will provide students with the opportunity to experience firsthand what will be involved in particular trades and industries.

This work experience component will build on the clearly defined, robust, nationally recognised and consistent pathways the National Trade Cadetships will deliver for students who want to pursue a career in the trades.

What does this mean for students?

As part of the new National Trade Cadetships, these structured work experience places will provide school students with high quality work experience through a substantial block of workplace learning.

Work experience places will be facilitated by Group Training Organisations (GTOs) providing students with connections to local employers interested in employing

¹ Source: BVET (NSW) report on the value of pre-apprenticeships, 2007.

apprentices. GTOs will also play an important role in assisting students to make decisions about future employment and training options.

National Trade Cadetships and Work Experience.

Ryan is in Year 11 and has commenced a National Trade Cadetship – Pre-Apprentice because he interested in working in carpentry. Ryan’s local GTO arranges for him to participate in a two week block of work experience on a large scale carpentry workshop preparing products for the residential housing market.

During these work placements, Ryan sees what would be involved in doing a carpentry apprenticeship as well as other trades.

Ryan really enjoyed being on the site and the daily work and skills involved. He decides that when he finishes his National Trade Cadetship, he will start a school based carpentry apprenticeship. Ryan will receive credit from his National Trade Cadetship towards his school based apprenticeship and his local GTO will help him find a suitable employer.

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Angela is in Year 10 and wants to enter the workforce. Angela decides to undertake a National Trade Cadetship – Foundation which will allow her to receive high quality work readiness skills that could be applied across a range of industries. As part of her National Trade Cadetship she completes a week of work experience with the local holiday resort and a week of work experience doing business administration.

Through this work experience, Angela decides that she would like to work in tourism. While on work experience, Angela learnt that if she has a qualification, she’s more likely to get a job that lets her travel. Angela decides that she’ll commence a Trade Cadetship – Pre-Apprentice to gain more skills that will be credited towards a Certificate III in Tourism.

What does this mean for industry and employers?

As part of the National Curriculum and endorsed by industry, National Trade Cadetships will ensure young people have the necessary skills and experience to make positive contributions to the workplace.

As a result of the high quality work experience delivered through the National Trade Cadetships, employers and industry will benefit from students having a better understanding of what is expected of an apprentice in the workplace.

The structured work experience places will also give employers access to a motivated pool of potential future employees, particularly school students wanting a future in the trades and technical skills.

How will the work experience places be delivered?

Group Training Organisations (GTOs) will connect young people and local employers, in order to offer structured work experience placements as part of their National Trade Cadetship.

GTOs employ around 40,000 apprentices and trainees throughout Australia and have access to a large network of employers across most industries – automotive, construction, electrical, plumbing, engineering, horticulture, community services, retail, hospitality and business administration.

They will work with the Trade Training Centre or school to facilitate each student's participation in work placement so that it suits their goals and school timetable.

Federal Labor's record

Federal Labor has taken action to build a world class education system that gives students every opportunity to gain the skills they need to participate in the economy.

The 10 year, \$2.5 billion Trade Training Centres in Schools Program was a 2007 election commitment by Federal Labor. It was designed to give young Australians greater training opportunities and help address the skills shortage by ensuring every secondary school had access to a Trades Training Centre.

The Program built on Federal Labor's commitment to improve the quality of schooling offered to secondary students who undertake trade related pathways, including Vocational Education and Training (VET). It assists students to make a successful transition from school to work, or further education and training.

Under the Program, Australia's 2,650 secondary schools are eligible to apply for funding of between \$500,000 and \$1.5 million to establish, or upgrade, existing trade training facilities.

Since the Trade Training Centres in Schools Program commenced, the Federal Government has approved 230 projects benefiting 732 schools. The National Trade Cadetships will build on this investment.

THE COALITION'S RECORD

- ✘ If elected Prime Minister, Tony Abbott has already made clear that he would end the Trade Training Centres program, **cutting \$968 million and ensuring that over 1,800 secondary schools and 1.2 million students would miss out on the chance to use a Trade Training Centre.**
- ✘ As a former Cabinet Minister in the Coalition Government, Tony Abbott and the Coalition promised in 2004 that the Australian Technical Colleges would help 21,000 students over four years at a cost of \$289 million. In 2008 we know the real figures were 3,000 students at a cost of \$440 million over the past four years since that program was announced.
- ✘ The former Coalition Government delivered only 24 Australian Technical Colleges, an average of just three per state at a cost of \$140,000 per student. **That's a cost blowout of more than 50 per cent and they only managed to build 24 centres in four years.**
- ✘ With approximately 90 per cent of ATCs in either Coalition or marginal electorates, the Colleges were a cynical political response to a critical policy challenge.

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