



# Media release

**Laurie Ferguson MP**

Labor Candidate for Werriwa

## **Skilled Youth are Australia's Future**

The Rudd Government's 2010-11 Budget will deliver for Australia's youth, said Laurie Ferguson, Labor candidate for Werriwa.

The Government will invest \$243 million over the next four years to transform Australian's Vocational Education and Training system.

The Budget will provide \$53.6 million for the National Entitlement to a Quality Training Place.

"This means all Australians under 25 will have guaranteed access to a course that enables them to gain a qualification or increase their skills." Mr Ferguson said.

Critically, this will assist the 364,000 young people who have not yet gained Year 12 or Cert II qualifications.

Under this Budget, more than 1.7 million Australians will benefit from the \$130 million the Rudd Government is committing to lift the performance of our vocational education system.

The Government also announced \$80 million in additional funding to extend the Apprentice Kickstart program for another six months.

"This will mean that 22,500 young Australians have access to an apprenticeship and an opportunity to build a career," Mr Ferguson said.

"This Government is about planning for future economic needs of this nation and for the future security of Australian families."

The Government also announced a major overhaul of the apprenticeship system which will allow our best apprentices to fast track their training.

There will be a fundamental shift in the way the apprenticeship system works with a move to competency instead of the duration of the training.

"Australia needs to nurture our talent; our skills are our national strength." Mr Ferguson said.

The Government will also invest almost \$120million in additional funding over four years for language literacy and numeracy programs under its Skills for Sustainable Growth Strategy.

"Labor believes every Australian should have access to foundation skills. All Australians deserve an opportunity to reach their potential and participate fully in our workforce," Mr Ferguson said.

**Media Contact: Laurie Ferguson MP 0424 843 615**  
**Laurie.Ferguson@australianlabor.com.au**