

THE TURNBULL COALITION TEAM

CCHQ 2016



28 June 2016

Ms Christine McCall
President
Adult Learning Australia
Office 1, Henderson House
45 Moreland Street
FOOTSCRAY VIC 3011

Dear Ms McCall

Thank you for the opportunity to provide the views of the Coalition on important issues facing your members. On behalf of the Coalition Members of Parliament and candidates I am pleased to respond to your policy statement.

Australia's future depends on how well we can continue to grow and shape our economy.

Only the Liberal and National Parties have an **economic plan** to do that and ensure Australia's future.

We have a clear plan to transition the economy from the mining and investment boom to a stronger and more diverse economy.

The key elements of our national economic plan for jobs and growth are:

- An Innovation and Science programme bringing Australian ideas to market. This means greater investment and more jobs and opportunities for our young people;
- A New Defence Industry plan that will secure an advanced defence manufacturing industry in Australia. This will create thousands of new hi-tech, higher paying jobs;
- Export Trade Deals that will generate more than 19,000 new export opportunities. These will create many more jobs for our urban and regional families;
- New Tax Incentives, which will include tax cuts for more small businesses. More than two million businesses can benefit, to deliver more growth and jobs; and
- A Strong New Economy with more than 200,000 jobs expected to be created.

Our national economic plan and management is already paying dividends. Last year our economy continued to grow creating almost 300,000 new jobs, many of them in small business.

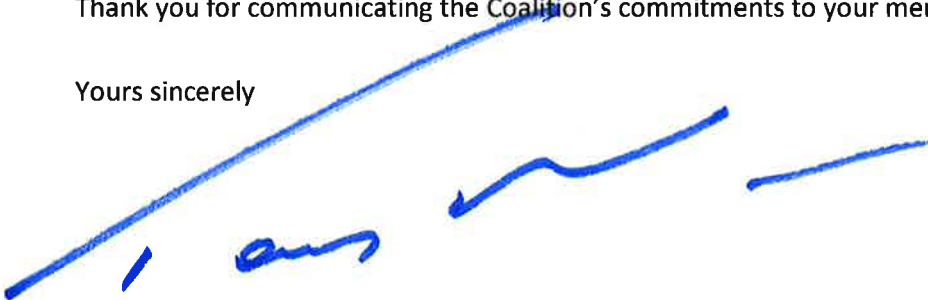
We cannot put economic growth and the jobs that come with it at risk with a return to Labor and their debt and deficits, high taxing, big spending ideas.

Only a Liberal and National Party Government can protect Australia's future.

Once announced, our policies will be available at www.liberal.org.au and www.nationals.org.au.

Thank you for communicating the Coalition's commitments to your members.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Tony Nutt', is written over the 'Yours sincerely' text. The signature is stylized and spans across the text.

Tony Nutt
National Campaign Director

COALITION RESPONSE TO ADULT LEARNING AUSTRALIA

The Turnbull Coalition team recognises that funding for schools and universities, support for Indigenous students and their families, and vocational education and training (VET) all play a critical role in ensuring Australia has the skilled workforce it needs to drive innovation and future economic growth.

VET pathways can help younger Australians find a fulfilling career after leaving school, or for older workers and those who have been out of employment, it provides diverse and flexible delivery options to help them return to the workforce. Recognition of prior learning is also available to assess an individual's relevant prior learning (including formal, informal and non-formal learning) to determine credit in certain qualifications.

The Turnbull Government provides support to those wanting to study and work by investing approximately \$7 billion in VET each year. In addition to funding student income-contingent loans, around \$1.8 billion of this investment goes to State Governments to support the operation of their training systems, including TAFE. The Coalition also provides practical support to Australians who choose a vocational education and training pathway through a number of targeted initiatives. From 2016–17, the Coalition will provide \$457 million in funding to the Skills for Education and Employment (SEE) programme over four years. This will assist more than 86,000 people to improve their language, literacy and numeracy skills for the workplace.

Apprenticeships offer Australians an opportunity to earn and learn. The Australian Apprenticeship Support Network (AASN) helps employers recruit, train and retain apprentices. The network provides targeted pre-commencement services to ensure that people are the right fit for an apprenticeship, are well matched to their employer and occupation, and have any support needs assessed early. Services are available in around 400 locations and so far they have supported more than 270,000 apprentices and employers. In addition to this support offered to all apprentices and employers through AASN, the Coalition has introduced Trade Support Loans of up to \$20,000 to help apprentices with the costs of living, learning and tools. Apprentices who complete their apprenticeship are eligible for a 20% discount (up to \$4,000) when paying back the loan.

The Coalition will also invest more than \$840 million over four years in an innovative Youth Employment Package to help up to 120,000 young people to secure jobs. The Youth Jobs PaTH (Prepare-Trial-Hire) Programme responds directly to business feedback that more needs to be done to increase young people's employability, and to provide them with access to quality education and real work experience.

In addition to supporting individuals to undertake training, a strong VET system also provides employers with an opportunity to contribute to the development and evaluation of training. Input from employers through the Australian Industry and Skills Committee ensures training meets business needs and helps students gain employment.

To ensure taxpayers' money is being spent efficiently and effectively, the Coalition has put measures in place to crack down on the unscrupulous providers who have exploited students and wasted taxpayer funds under Labor's expanded VET FEE-HELP scheme. These measures include a ban on inducements, such as free laptops or iPads.

Further to these changes, the Turnbull Government has undertaken national VET FEE-HELP consultations with providers, peak bodies, students, and stakeholders across Australia to hear views, concerns, and ideas to redesign the scheme. As a result of the consultation process, the Government released the Redesigning VET FEE-HELP Discussion Paper and is seeking submissions from stakeholders to inform a complete redesign of the VET FEE-HELP scheme for 2017.

The Coalition is investing a record \$16.7 billion in higher education in 2016. A re-elected Coalition Government will provide \$272 million in regional loading funding for universities over the next four years and has allocated more than \$550 million over the next four years for the Higher Education Participation and Partnerships Programme, which supports universities to build the aspiration and opportunity for disadvantaged students to undertake university studies.

The Coalition understands the importance of parental engagement in their child's education – parental engagement is one of the four pillars of our Student's First Policy. That is why the Coalition is funding the Home Interaction Program for Parents and Youngsters (HIPPY). HIPPY is a two-year, home-based parenting and learning programme which empowers parents and carers to be the child's first teacher. HIPPY will be operational in 100 sites across Australia, with half of these sites specifically targeting Indigenous communities.

The Coalition is also providing funding to the Families as First Teachers - Indigenous Parenting Support Services Programme. This programme builds family knowledge of early learning and supports school readiness for Indigenous children through behaviour modelling, parenting workshops and home visits. This is operated by the Northern Territory Government in 21 remote sites with an outreach programme that supports an additional 14 sites.

The measures are in addition to the Coalition's increased funding for schools. Over the next four years the Turnbull Government will invest a record \$73.6 billion for all schools across Australia. This includes additional funding for students from low socioeconomic status (SES) backgrounds, Indigenous students, students with low English proficiency and students with disability. Extra funding is also provided for regional, remote and small schools, to acknowledge their higher costs to deliver quality education.

Coalition Government funding will be directed according to need, and will continue to focus on reforms that support students who need it most. State and Territory Governments and the non-government school sectors that receive additional funding will be required to show how this money will be used to improve outcomes for the targeted group of students. We will also encourage States and Territories to incentivise high-performing teachers to work in disadvantaged schools.

The Coalition Government has implemented the Remote School Attendance Strategy to lift school attendance levels in selected remote communities through employment of local School Attendance Supervisors (SAS) and School Attendance Officers (SAO) who work with schools, families and children to ensure they go to school. Making sure children attend school should be a priority for all families and communities because it gives every child the best chance for a good start in life.

States and Territories will need to meet attendance targets, including specific targets for Indigenous students, to ensure students properly benefit from teaching and learning. We will require all schools to provide parents with a yearly literacy and numeracy report to demonstrate the progress of their child's reading, writing and maths skills. These reports will record achievements and also highlight when more support and assistance is required.