



Prue Car MP

Member for Londonderry



Jenny Macaffer
Chief Executive Officer, Adult Learning Australia
By Email: j.macaffer@ala.asn.au

March 2019

Dear Jenny,

NSW Labor Skills policy

As the organisation representing adult learning in Australia, you would know more than most of the transformative power of education as a pathway and for the creation of critically needed jobs throughout the economy.

Labor cannot sit by and continue to watch affordable training be eroded by the Government.

We believe our announced policies will go a good way towards addressing critical shortages and restoring fairness to the training system.

Firstly, Labor will make TAFE free for courses in skills shortage areas.

This policy will offer more than 600,000 fee-free TAFE places over the next decade and will be offered for all certificate level courses in areas where there are skills shortages, such as childcare, aged care, disability care, construction, plumbing and the electrical trades.

Secondly, Labor will reserve **at least 70% of all Government VET funding for TAFE**. This will mean a guaranteed funding future for the institution. And it will mean that all private training providers will need to compete with one another (not with TAFE) for a **maximum of 30%**.

A Labor Government will legislate these proportions.

In short, this means that good Registered Training Organisations (RTOs) that can jump through the hoops that the public believes are necessary for the receipt of public funding, will still be afforded support from the Government. We will only be funding the good RTOs, not the bad ones. There will in fact be a larger share of the pie for training companies who will complement the work of TAFE NSW and offer things that TAFE cannot.

Thank you for your tireless advocacy for education.

Yours sincerely,

Prue Car MP

Shadow Minister for TAFE and Skills