

Education transform lives. It builds societies and economies.

The reality is that in Australia today, educational opportunity remains uneven. Too many people miss out on education and too many Australians have literacy and numeracy problems that make them vulnerable to underemployment and social exclusion.

I want to change this.

An Albanese Labor Government will break down the barriers that prevent so many Australians from getting the quality education they need.

This starts with quality early childhood education. This is why Labor has committed to make ECE more affordable for 96 per cent of working families, helping children get access to valuable early educational opportunities.

Labor is also committed to stopping the decline we're seeing in Australian school student's results in international testing and boosting Australian children's literacy and numeracy skills. No child should be missing out on the those core skills in their schooling.

With nine out of 10 jobs in coming years requiring a post-secondary qualification, more must be done to ensure Australians have greater access to high quality TAFEs, universities and apprenticeships.

That's why Labor is committed to a major funding boost for both TAFE and universities as part of our \$1.2 billion Future Made in Australia Skills Plan.

And of course, our education system must continue to have a strong, high quality adult and community education sector if we are to ensure no one gets left behind.

Everywhere I go people talk to me about the rapid change happening in our communities and workplaces – with jobs being destroyed because of disruptions like automation, globalisation and artificial intelligence, and new jobs being created that we couldn't have imagined just a few years ago.

During this time of change, I want to ensure a transition for Australians by making sure everyone can get access to quality education they need throughout their lives.

Labor has a vision for a stronger, fairer and fit-for-purpose post-secondary education system that meets the needs of our society and economy while helping to deliver fairness, address inequality and ensure equity.

In order to achieve our vision, we must reverse the slow decline that has characterised vocational education and training and adult and community education over the past few years.

We will secure funding for vocational education and ensure that at least 70 per cent of public funding for training will go to TAFE.

Labor will also deliver 465,000 Fee Free TAFE places, including 45,000 new TAFE places. This will provide opportunities for school leavers, workers wanting to retrain or upskill, and unpaid careers, to get back into the workforce.

Adult and community education is central to revitalizing our post-school education system as we know that we won't be able to deliver the change we need without your expertise, practice and community connection.

I believe that if we work together to build a stronger education system, we will be able to meet the opportunities and challenges of the future so that no Australian is left behind.

I look forward to seeing the strong and positive role adult and community learning will continue to play in that process.

Office of Tanya Plibersek MP
Shadow Minister for Education
Shadow Minister for Women
Federal Member for Sydney