

# JOINT MEDIA RELEASE



## **Senator Mathias Cormann**

*Shadow Minister for Employment Participation, Apprenticeships and Training*

## **Senator Michaelia Cash**

*Deputy Chair, Senate Education Employment and Workplace Relations Committee*

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## **TRADES TRAINING CENTRES? ANOTHER BROKEN RUDD PROMISE**

Only one single trades training centre out of 2,650 promised by Kevin Rudd before the last election is fully operational according to evidence before Senate Estimates today.

Incredibly, government officials were unable to tell how many full-time students were actually attending the only trades training centre across Australia.

"The commitment before the last election was crystal clear," Senator Cormann said. "Kevin Rudd promised that a 'Federal Labor Government would ... build new trade centres in all of Australia's 2,650 secondary schools'.

"The only trades training centre that has been established so far is at the Aviation High School in the Prime Minister's home town of Brisbane," Senator Cormann said.

"Not a single trades training centre has been established in one of the many mainstream secondary schools," he said.

Committee Deputy Chair Michaelia Cash pointed out that only three months ago she was told by the same government officials that fifteen trade training centres would be completed by the end of January 2010.

"This makes a complete mockery of the Government's rhetoric that the Trade Training Centres in Schools Program is an important element of the Rudd Government's Education Revolution," Senator Cash said.

"Another major part of the Education Revolution is failing – yet again all talk and no action.

In the meantime the Rudd government has successfully wound down all 24 Australian Technical Colleges set up by the previous government to cater for 7,500 students across Australia.

"If only Labor was as good at setting things up as they are at closing things down," Senator Cormann said.

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