



Media Release

Senator Mathias Cormann

Shadow Minister for Employment Participation, Apprenticeships and Training

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GILLARD DESPERATE TO COVER UP TRADE TRAINING FAILURE

No amount of slogans and catchy names can hide Labor's failure when it comes to technical education and training over the past three years.

"Julia Gillard and Labor have failed to deliver on trade training promises made before the last election," Shadow Training Minister Mathias Cormann said.

"Having promised 2,650 trade training centres in 2007, only one of them was up and running by 2010, in time for this school year," he said.

"We don't have one single additional plumber, carpenter or electrician as a result of the trade training centres pursued by Julia Gillard.

"One of the problems has been that funding was spread too thin.

"With \$500,000 to \$1.5 million allocated for each centre under Labor's failed model, funding for trade training centres was less than Julia Gillard has spent on many of her overpriced school halls.

"Labor should never have closed down our 24 Australian Technical Colleges.

"When Labor closed them down, Australian Technical Colleges were training thousands of young people in many of the traditional trades, working in close partnership with local industry and businesses.

"Julia Gillard has wasted the last three years, when it comes to technical education and training.

"What we're getting from Labor now is just more talk, more slogans and no real action.

"What Australians will get from a Coalition government is real action.

"An incoming Coalition government will be focused on achieving much better outcomes in technical education and training, maximising the impact on the ground of all the available resources.

"That's not going to be through Julia Gillard's failed trade training centre model," Senator Cormann said.

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