



Media Release

Senator Mathias Cormann

Shadow Minister for Employment Participation, Apprenticeships and Training

10/0526/M

26 May 2010

GILLARD RHETORIC DOESN'T HIDE TRAINING FAILURE

Julia Gillard has failed to deliver on technical training and education during her nearly three years as the part-time Minister for Training Shadow Minister for Training Mathias Cormann has said.

“After promising 2,650 trades training centres in schools at the last election in 2007, only one of them was up and running in time for the 2010 school year,” Senator Cormann said.

“None of her rhetoric today can hide the fact that she has wasted the last three years failing to get a bad policy on trades training centres to work,” he said.

“The lonely Trades Training Centre up and running at the beginning of this school year was Aviation High in Brisbane – hardly a school where they’re training carpenters and electricians.

“We’re now told by the Rudd government that instead of delivering 2,650 trades training centres funds will have to be pooled with the number of trades training centres to be dramatically reduced.

“Across many schools Julia Gillard has spent more on school halls than she is proposing to spend on Trades Training Centres under the ill-thought out policy Labor took to the last election.

“Labor’s Trades Training Centre in schools model was never a serious commitment to high quality technical training and education.

“It was nothing more and nothing less than a a rushed pre-election political fix to justify the scrapping of the Howard government’s highly successful Australian Technical Colleges.

“Those stand alone centres of training excellence were providing high quality training to thousands of future carpenters, electricians and other apprentices when Labor closed them down.

“The Trades Training Centres in schools model attaching a relatively small technical section at the back of a secondary school is not the right way to deliver high quality technical education.

“The Coalition will release a better and more cost effective approach to training carpenters, electricians and other apprentices in the lead-up to the next election,” Senator Cormann said.

MEDIA CONTACT:

Senator Cormann

-

0411 874 546