MEDIA RELEASE

86 NSW Schools Receive Trades Training Boost

New South Wales schools will receive $93.9 million to build or refurbish trade or vocational education and training facilities in 86 schools as part of the Rudd Government’s Trades Training Centres in Schools Program.

Federal Minister for Education Julia Gillard and the Member for Lindsay David Bradbury were joined at Cambridge Park High School in Western Sydney by NSW Premier Nathan Rees and Education Minister Verity Firth to announce the successful schools from Round One (Phase Two) of the program.

With 32 successful projects involving 86 schools, New South Wales received $93.9 million or 28 per cent of the $335 million allocated for schools in Phase Two.

The Trade Training Centres in Schools program provides $2.5 billion dollars over 10 years to address shortages in traditional trades and emerging industries by giving secondary students access to high-quality relevant trade training opportunities.

Secondary schools can apply for funding of between $500 000 and $1.5 million for Trade Training Centres to construct new, or upgrade, existing trade or vocational education and training facilities.

Minister Gillard said the Australian Government is committed to giving all Australian students the opportunity to gain the skills they need to succeed in the workforce.

“The Trades Training Centre will ensure students have access to industry standard high quality training while still completing their year 12 studies,” she said.
NSW Premier Nathan Rees welcomed the announcement saying NSW is the national leader in the development of trade schools, providing young people with greater training and education options.

“In NSW we have made significant investments in our trade schools – investing in training and job opportunities for our young people,” Mr Rees said.

“This Federal Government program means we can provide more school-based apprentices and trainees who can work, train and complete their HSC in NSW schools.”

Mr Rees said under the NSW Government’s five year $31.2 million program, 13 trade schools have been built and opened already, with another to open this year, and another 12 to be delivered throughout 2010 and 2011.

“Working with the Commonwealth, we can produce more job-ready graduates so when they finish school they have the skills and knowledge to kick-start a career in a trade.

“In these difficult financial times we need to provide our young people with the best education possible to help them secure a good job.

“That’s why we will increase the school leaving age to 17 and we are expanding the trades and training options available to young people.

“We have also announced we will create 4000 new Government apprenticeships and 2000 new cadetships – giving real job opportunities to school leavers.

“By providing trades training in schools such as Cambridge Park High School students can start their career in Metals and Engineering now while studying their Higher School Certificate.

“NSW will provide recurrent funding for the trade training centres funded under the Commonwealth program; $847,000 in the 2009/10 financial year rising to $4.5 million once the centres are fully operational in 2012.

“Together with the Commonwealth we are addressing the national skills shortage and ensuring we train a skilled workforce to help build our way out of these tough economic times,” Mr Rees said.

Federal Member for Lindsay David Bradbury welcomed the funding for two Trades Training Centres in the Lindsay electorate, involving eleven local schools.

“These Trades Training Centres will equip our local students with the important trades skills needed to grow our region’s skills base and help them secure future employment in a highly competitive workforce,” he said.

The Trades Training Centres in Schools program demonstrates the effectiveness of the strong partnership arrangements the Australian Government has with state and territory governments, and with the catholic and independent school sectors.

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