



MEDIA RELEASE

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TDA welcomes new Labor federal government

Australia's TAFE sector has welcomed the new Albanese Labor government and looks forward to working together to implement Labor's vision for vocational education and skills development.

TAFE Directors Australia (TDA) has applauded the positive plan that Labor has developed for the vocational education and training sector, including the central role for TAFE.

The Chief Executive Officer of TDA, Jenny Dodd, said that Labor in Opposition has recognised the critical part that TAFE must play in the economic recovery and in delivering skills for the future.

"TAFE has been the bedrock in skilling communities over decades and it will continue to play a pivotal role in ensuring that Australia has the skills for now and into the future.

"It is for this reason that Labor has committed that at least 70 per cent of Commonwealth VET funding will go to TAFE.

"Labor's commitment to create 465,000 free TAFE places recognises the importance of skills development in many industries that are recovering from the pandemic or facing long term skills shortages," Ms Dodd said.

"Labor's plans for revitalised manufacturing, new energy, digital transformation, and in the areas of aged, disability and child care will mean thousands of people needing to either commence training or upgrade their skills.

"We look forward to working with Labor to help bring about this transformation," Ms Dodd said.

Labor also promised to set up the TAFE Technology Fund which will see funding for IT facilities, workshops, laboratories and tele-health simulators at TAFEs across the country.

A central element of Labor's plan is the creation of Jobs and Skills Australia, which will drive VET education and strengthen workforce planning through a partnership with employers, unions and the training and education sector.

TDA extends its congratulations to incoming Ministers Richard Marles and Tanya Plibersek who have played key roles in the development of Labor's plan and look forward to working collaboratively to help bring this to fruition.

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TAFE Directors Australia is the peak national body representing 29 TAFE institutes, including six dual sector universities with TAFE divisions and nine TAFEs that are also non-university higher education providers.