

EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND WORKPLACE RELATIONS

SENATE LEGISLATION COMMITTEE - QUESTIONS ON NOTICE 2008-09 BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING

Outcome 2

DEEWR Question No. EW672_09

Senator Mason asked on 4 June 2008, EEWL Hansard page 49

Question

Trade Training Centres in Schools

Do we have correspondence from the States saying that the States will pay for capital infrastructure for VET in schools, and the recurrent costs of the Trade Training Centres? Do we have those documents? Can I see them, is that possible?

Answer

The Partnership Arrangements (PAs) outline the commitment required by the Commonwealth and the States and Territories. This commitment includes that the States and Territories agree to:

- maintain their current level of capital funding for trade training and other vocational education and training in schools; and
- provide for the ongoing operation of the Trade Training Centres in government schools.

A copy of the PAs between the Commonwealth and State and Territory Governments is at Attachment A.

Copies of the letters from Education Ministers agreeing to the Partnership Arrangements are at Attachment B, C, D, E, F, G and H respectively. In principle support for the Partnership Arrangements from the ACT has been received and formalisation is progressing.

Partnership Arrangements



Australian Government
Department of Education, Employment
and Workplace Relations

Trade Training Centres in Schools Program



PARTNERSHIP ARRANGEMENTS Between the Commonwealth and State and Territory Governments

4 March 2008 - Final



Trade Training Centres in Schools Program

The purpose of this document is to outline the agreed arrangements between the Commonwealth and State and Territory governments for the implementation and ongoing operation of the *Trade Training Centres in Schools Program*.

It is recognised that the long term success of the Program will be built on a strong partnership between the Commonwealth and State and Territory governments. The partnership will encompass:

- a shared commitment to the Program and its objectives;
- a collaborative approach to its development and implementation; and
- complementary roles to ensure the quality and sustainability of Trade Training Centres.

A shared commitment to the Program and its objectives

The goals of improving the quality of schooling and having a highly qualified, well trained workforce, particularly in those industries experiencing skills shortages, are very important to all levels of Australian governments, the school and training sectors and industry. These goals are also important to the broader community, who rely on skilled tradespeople, and to families who want their children to have the opportunity to work in a field they enjoy and which provides a good living.

The Commonwealth and State and Territory governments agree to:

- work together to support the Program's objective of improving the quality of schooling offered to secondary students and better supporting young people to make a successful transition from school to work or further education or training;
- commit to national targets to increase the proportion of students achieving Year 12 or an equivalent qualification to 85% by 2015 and 90% by 2020;
- make complementary investments in trade training in schools and avoid duplication of training facilities or delivery;
- work together to enable the delivery of high quality trade training in schools, including through the reform of curriculum, to ensure flexible academic and trade pathways for students are maximised; and
- ensure strong links between the Trade Training Centres and other Commonwealth and State and Territory programs offering industry recognised vocational education and training and building relationships between schools and employers in order to maximise the outcomes achieved. This could include encouraging complementary implementation of programs.

In addition, in order to maximise the benefit of the Commonwealth's \$2.5 billion investment in Trade Training Centres, States and Territories agree to:

- maintain their current level of capital funding for trade training and other vocational education and training in schools; and
- provide for the ongoing operation of the Trade Training Centres in government schools.



A collaborative approach to the Program's development and implementation

A collaborative approach to program development and implementation is vital for the sustainability and success of Trade Training Centres. In addition to offering high quality, nationally recognised training, Trade Training Centres will need to offer training that is supported by local employers and leads to local employment opportunities if they are to successfully engage students. In communities where local employers are not available, training should articulate to regional skill shortages.

The Commonwealth and State and Territory governments will work together to ensure the Program is responsive to national, state, regional and local priorities. All governments will support the Program's objectives of increasing the proportion of students achieving Year 12 or an equivalent qualification and helping address skills shortages in traditional trades and emerging industries. Through the Program, all governments aim to:

- improve student access to trade training facilities that meet industry standards;
- improve the quality of schooling offered to secondary students undertaking trade related pathways; and
- assist young people to make a successful transition from school to work or further education or training.

The Commonwealth commits to the provision of program management; management of the application process; a dedicated call centre; assessment, evaluation and monitoring; and regular communication with States and Territories.

States and Territories will play a critical role in implementing the Program, particularly in the process of developing submissions for funding.

During the submission process States and Territories will:

- promote the Program to school communities and other local stakeholders, including industry and employers;
- work with government schools (and non-government schools where appropriate) to jointly develop submissions for funding;
- contribute knowledge of local environments, to ensure that applications put forward each round address State, regional and local needs and build appropriate partnerships that ensure efficiency of investment is maximised;
- manage expectations within their jurisdiction about the likely funding for different types of submissions (equipment; equipment and minor upgrade of facilities; and major capital works), noting that there will be a competitive process for each round of the Program;
- ensure applications from government schools comply with all relevant laws and policies and that arrangements are in place to meet OH&S, insurance and workplace compensation requirements; and
- facilitate partnerships between schools (government and non-government) and with industry, employers and the training sector where proposals for regional skills centres or shared facilities are being developed.



During the assessment process, States and Territories will:

- provide an assessment of all applications, from government and non-government schools, that:
 - indicates whether the application aligns with the State/Territory's skills priorities, engages appropriate local/regional bodies and stakeholders and avoids duplication of existing infrastructure;
 - helps identify those schools with greatest need and capacity to benefit, to ensure funds are targeted appropriately, including identifying recent investments in trade training facilities; and
- for government schools, provide a further assessment that indicates the degree of support for proposals and confirms their viability.

During the assessment of proposals involving schools from more than one sector, each relevant sector will have the opportunity to contribute to the assessment, consistent with their role during the assessment process as set out in the respective Partnership Arrangements.

During the funding process:

- Funding Agreements will be signed by person(s) who are legally authorised to bind the school by entering into an agreement with the Commonwealth (this person may be the principal of the school).

All governments recognise that the Program will produce better outcomes if States and Territories actively engage with schools to generate high quality, sustainable proposals that are built on strong local partnerships. The Commonwealth and State and Territory governments agree, as part of the partnership arrangements, to share the cost of establishing a joint dedicated Trade Training Centres in Schools support unit in each State and Territory to undertake this proactive engagement with government schools or any cluster with government school membership, particularly in regional and remote areas, in the initial stages of the Program. Additionally, this unit may provide advice in relation to labour market trends, industry skills need, information in relation to training activity across the State or Territory and information on the Trades Training Centres in Schools Program to all schools.

Taking account of enrolments of students in Years 9-12 in each State and Territory, the Commonwealth will contribute up to the following amounts for the first year of the Program (2008-2009) to help establish a joint dedicated support unit:

NSW	up to \$0.765m
Victoria	up to \$0.579m
Queensland	up to \$0.532m
WA	up to \$0.259m
SA	up to \$0.187m
Tasmania	up to \$0.144m*
ACT	up to \$0.120m*
NT	up to \$0.103m*
TOTAL	up to \$2.689m

The proposed funding amounts for NT, ACT and Tasmania include a base funding amount of \$75,000 in addition to funding based on their enrolments of students in Years 9-12. This will provide the minimum funding required (once matched by the States) to set up joint Commonwealth and State and Territory government dedicated support units, as well as taking account of the number of schools to be supported.



This funding will be matched by the State or Territory government.

Each State and Territory will work with the Commonwealth to develop a 10-year plan for engaging their schools in the Program, including those in regional and remote areas. The Plan will be used to help manage the Program budget over the 10 years.

Complementary roles to ensure the quality and sustainability of Trade Training Centres

Complementary roles in the establishment and ongoing operations of Trade Training Centres will ensure their quality and sustainability and avoid duplication of resources.

The Commonwealth will be making a major investment in the establishment or upgrade of trade training facilities and equipment. In return States and Territories would provide for the ongoing operation of the Trade Training Centres in government schools, including through:

- ensuring training is delivered by appropriately qualified trainers/teachers and providing teacher training and professional development;
- supporting structured work-placements or school-based apprenticeships for students in the Trade Training Centres, to ensure that training meets industry expectations regarding quality on-the-job experience;
- meeting ongoing equipment leasing costs, maintenance and upkeep of infrastructure;
- ensuring training offered by Trade Training Centres is part of a broad comprehensive secondary education and responsive to student and employer needs;
- offering students career advice from appropriately qualified staff, to ensure they have well developed learning and career development plans and are selecting appropriate vocational education and training options;
- increasing the availability of trade pathways for students in Years 9 and 10, including accredited vocational education and training programs where appropriate;
- establishing timetabling arrangements to coordinate the delivery of mainstream subjects and vocational education and training subjects, including on-the-job components through structured work placements or apprenticeships;
- developing learning and assessment strategies that support quality outcomes for Indigenous students and students from rural, regional or other disadvantaged communities;
- providing vocational education and training oriented literacy and numeracy support for students that require such assistance;
- providing support for school-based apprentices through mentoring and pastoral care in the on-the-job component of their training;
- encouraging schools to develop strong local business support for Trade Training Centres to enhance opportunities for students to make a successful transition to work, including through accessing Commonwealth, State and Territory programs such as the Career Advice Australia (CAA) initiative which includes a range of programs designed to improve the career decisions of young people through improved school and industry partnerships; and
- supporting students to make a successful transition to further education and training or work.

The Commonwealth and State and Territory governments agree to review this Partnership Agreement after two years, in light of experience with the Trade Training Centres in Schools Program.



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CAB080030



07 MAY 2008

The Hon Julia Gillard, MP
Deputy Prime Minister
Minister for Education
PO Box 6022
House of Representatives
Parliament House
CANBERRA 2600

Dear Deputy Prime Minister

Julia

Thank you for your letter of 5 March 2008 inviting me to approve the proposed Partnership Arrangement between the Commonwealth Government and the State of Victoria in relation to the Trade Training Centres initiative.

The Victorian Government strongly welcomes this significant investment by the Commonwealth in this important area of trade training. I reiterate my appreciation for your commitment to a genuinely collaborative approach with the States and Territories to the program's development and implementation as represented by the proposed Partnership Arrangement.

I am pleased to inform you that Victoria agrees to the Partnership Arrangement with the Commonwealth, and take this opportunity to make the following observations about a number of important issues that arise from the Arrangement.

I note that the Partnership Arrangement includes reference to national targets related to student completion rates. I understand that further definitional work will continue to be progressed by the COAG Productivity Working Group.

In relation to the list of commitments required of the States and Territories, I expect that the relative responsibilities of the Commonwealth and Victoria will be further clarified through the work of Treasurers in relation to the new generation SPPs as noted in the COAG communiqué of 26 March 2008.

I welcome the Commonwealth's contribution to the establishment of state and territory-based support units to ensure the effective implementation of the program. I am pleased to confirm that Victoria will match the proposed funding from the Commonwealth, and would be pleased if you would confirm that Victoria's matched funding can be expended in the second year of the Arrangement.

I also note there are at present a number of other initiatives managed and funded by the Commonwealth in the youth transitions area. I would welcome discussion as to how these might be better integrated with the TTC initiative and other State provision mechanisms to ensure the most effective and efficient support is provided to Victoria's young people.

I look forward to continuing to work collaboratively with you to ensure this program achieves its full potential.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Bronwyn Pike', written in a cursive style.

Hon Bronwyn Pike MP
Minister for Education



The Honourable Rod Welford MP
12 MAY 2008



Queensland
Government

Minister for Education and Training
Minister for the Arts

The Honourable Julia Gillard MP
Deputy Prime Minister
Minister for Education and
Minister for Employment and Workplace Relations and
Minister for Social Inclusion
PO Box 6022
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Deputy Prime Minister *Julia*

I write to advise you of my decision to formally agree to the Partnership Arrangements for the implementation and ongoing operation of the *Trade Training Centres in Schools* (TTCIS) Program in Queensland.

I am aware of the Commonwealth Government's position in not being able to progress funding agreements in Round 1 without the Partnership Arrangements being signed by State and Territory Governments. I have previously raised with you the concerns the Queensland Government has with respect to the recurrent cost implications of the TTCIS Program.

I welcome the advice received from the recent Council of Australian Governments (COAG) meeting where an undertaking was given that the legitimate and additional costs for the Commonwealth election commitments would be taken into consideration by Commonwealth and State and Territory Treasurers during negotiation of the new generation Specific Purpose Payments at the end of each year.

I am pleased that my department will be able to indicate their level of support for the Government schools applications. I reiterate the importance of my departments involvement in the selection process due to the nature of these facilities.

Given the level of interest and commitment from schools and clusters in Queensland, I believe it is important to progress the TTCIS Program so that students and schools can benefit from this significant initiative.

I look forward to the announcement of the successful applications for Queensland in June and our further discussions in relation to the cost implications for States and Territories.

Please accept this letter as formal notification of my agreement to the Partnership Arrangements for the *Trade Training Centres in Schools* Program. For any future matters related to these Arrangements, I invite your officers to contact Ms Kim Bannan, Policy Advisor (Training), Office of the Minister for Education and Training and Minister for the Arts by email at Kim.Bannan@ministerial.qld.gov.au or on telephone (07) 3224 5957.

Yours sincerely

Rod Welford MP

Ref: 08/58333

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Minister for Education

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_ 6 MAR 2008



The Hon Julia Gillard MP
Deputy Prime Minister
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Deputy Prime Minister *Julia,*

Thank you for your recent letter concerning the *Trade Training Centres in Schools Program*.

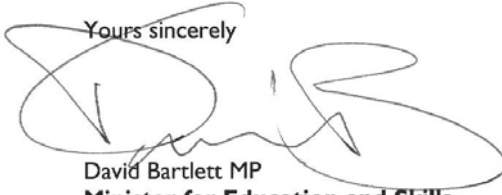
I am aware that this program is an important element of the Commonwealth Government's quality schooling and workforce development agendas and will help address skill shortages in traditional trades and emerging industries by improving trade training programs in secondary schools and colleges. In respect of Tasmania, we are currently pursuing a range of reforms for post-Year 10 education and training under the Tasmania *Tomorrow* initiative. This important initiative involves the establishment of Polytechnic infrastructure for post-Year 10 trade training prior to students entering the workforce.

I understand that our officers have been conducting co-operative discussions about the nature of the Tasmania *Tomorrow* initiative and its implications in respect of the *Trade Training Centres in Schools Program*, particularly, the fact that the limit of \$1.5M per project is not appropriate in respect of the development of Polytechnic infrastructure. I am also pleased that the need for applications from Government schools and colleges to be consistent with the Tasmania *Tomorrow* framework has been included in our joint letter.

Whilst I understand that there are still aspects of the program that need to be agreed, I am able to provide in principle agreement to the proposed partnership arrangements between our Governments. I would also be happy to accept your invitation to write jointly to Tasmanian Government and non-Government schools to inform them of the program. I assume that the letter will only be forwarded to those schools with secondary enrolments. The Department of Education (DoE) will provide your officers with my signature block etc.

Again, thank you for writing to me on this matter and I look forward to our collaborative partnership on improving the quality of trade training facilities.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'David Bartlett', written over the words 'Yours sincerely'.

David Bartlett MP
Minister for Education and Skills

Minister for Education

Level 9, Marine Board Building,
1 Franklin Wharf, Hobart TAS 7000
Ph (03) 6233 8807 Fax (03) 6233 8013



The Hon Julia Gillard MP
Minister for Education
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600



12 MAR 2008

Dear Minister 

Thank you for your letter of 24 January 2008 concerning the *Trade Training Centres in Schools Programme*.

I welcome this initiative as an important step in improving Year 12 retention and addressing skill shortages and look forward to working collaboratively with you and your Government in implementation of the programme in Tasmania.

You may be aware of the Tasmanian Government's *Tasmania Tomorrow* initiative which will see enhanced education and training opportunities for both young and older Tasmanians through the establishment of the Tasmanian Academy, Tasmanian Polytechnic and Training Tasmania. The *Tasmania Tomorrow* initiative will assume and build on the current functions of Tasmania's senior secondary and TAFE institutions, commencing in 2009. Further information about the *Tasmania Tomorrow* reforms is available at <http://tomorrow.education.tas.gov.au/>.

I understand that some aspects of the proposed implementation arrangements for the *Trade Training Centres for School Students Programme* do not align with or take account of the *Tasmania Tomorrow* arrangements. For example, strict application of the maximum funding level of \$1.5 million per school would preclude the Tasmanian public education system from receiving an equitable share of available funds as the *Tasmania Tomorrow* reforms envisage a single institution – the Tasmanian Polytechnic – managing the provision of VET programs to Year 11/12 students across Tasmania.

I understand that discussions between officers of our respective agencies have been conducted in a spirit of cooperation and collaboration. I am pleased to learn that senior officers of the Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations have indicated that the programme will be implemented in a flexible manner that will ensure that Tasmania is able to attract an equitable share of available funds. I would appreciate your assurance that this will be the case.

Again, thank you for writing to me on this matter.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David Bartlett".

David Bartlett MP
Minister for Education and Skills

27- 6-08; 3:59PM;

1/ 2

Department of Education
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

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- 4 JUN 2008

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Ms Lisa Paul
Secretary
Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations
GPO Box 9880
CANBERRA ACT 2601

Dear Ms Paul

I am writing about the Commonwealth-State Partnership Arrangements which will underpin operation of the Trade Training Centres in Schools Program following correspondence between our respective Ministers on this matter.

In correspondence dated 6 March 2008, Minister Bartlett wrote to Minister Gillard providing Tasmania's in-principle agreement to the Partnership Arrangements. In further correspondence dated 12 March, Minister Bartlett indicated that elements of the program did not align with or take account of the Tasmania *Tomorrow* reforms and sought an assurance that the program would be implemented in a flexible manner to ensure that Tasmania was able to attract an equitable share of available funds. Minister Gillard replied on 8 April, providing an assurance that this would be the case.

In view of this assurance, I can confirm Tasmania's agreement to the Partnership Arrangements.

In providing this confirmation, I wish to raise two important matters.

Firstly, I am concerned that the operation of training programs and maintenance of trade training centre infrastructure will bring additional recurrent costs. I note that the Council of Australian Governments has agreed that additional costs associated with implementation of the federal government's election commitments may be considered when developing the new Specific Purpose Payment agreements. Tasmania may wish to explore this matter in the context of negotiating the new agreements.

Secondly, I wish to emphasise the importance to Tasmania of the need for flexibility in implementing the program, pursuant to Minister Gillard's assurance on this matter. Specifically, the advent of the Tasmanian Polytechnic as the sole public provider of trade training programs for Year 11/12 students requires that multiple proposals from or involving the Polytechnic are able to be funded if Tasmania is to receive an equitable share of available funds under the program. I would prefer that we simply acknowledge the need for a flexible approach in dealing with proposals involving the Polytechnic, rather than consider special rules for this purpose.

ATTACHMENT D cont

In closing I wish to thank your officers for their assistance and for collaborative approach which has marked negotiations on this matter.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John Smyth". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'J'.

John Smyth
Secretary

Copy to R Cross Rebecca.cross@deewr.gov.au



COPY

MS MARION SCRYMGOUR MLA
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The Hon Julia Gillard MP
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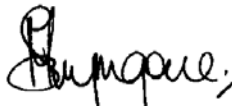
Dear Minister *Julia*

Thank you for your letter of 24 January 2008 regarding the establishment of Trade Training Centres in Schools.

I am pleased to inform you that after careful analysis of the program and its implications for Northern Territory Government schools, I have accepted a recommendation to endorse the establishment of a partnership between the Northern Territory and Commonwealth governments in the further development of the program.

The creation of vocational opportunities for our young people is a major objective of both governments and I hope this partnership will provide real improvement in the quality of vocational education to students in our schools and further links between education and industry in the preparation and development of the Territory workforce.

Yours sincerely


MARION SCRYMGOUR

26 JUN 2008



Hon Mark McGowan MLA
Minister for Education and Training; South West

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17-024045-D08/0044965

Hon Julia Gillard MP
Minister for Education
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Minister 

Thank you for your letter dated 13 June 2008 concerning the partnership arrangements for the Trade Training Centres in Schools Program.

I wish to confirm that Western Australia is keen to collaborate with the Australian Government on the Trade Training Centres in Schools program and agrees with the partnership arrangements.

Western Australia welcomes the advice from the 23 March COAG meeting and confirmed at the 3 July COAG meeting that consideration of costs associated with the Commonwealth Government's election commitments will be included as an addition to the work of the Treasurers during negotiations of the new generation Specific Purpose Payments at the end of the year.

I look forward to working with you to implement this important program for our schools.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mark McGowan', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

**HON MARK MCGOWAN MLA
MINISTER FOR EDUCATION AND TRAINING; SOUTH WEST**

- 7 JUL 2008



Acting Minister for Education and Training

The Hon J E Gillard MP
Deputy Prime Minister
Minister for Education
Minister for Employment and Workplace Relations
Minister for Social Inclusion
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

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19 JUN 2008



Dear Deputy Prime Minister

I write in response to your letter of 5 March 2008 regarding Partnership Arrangements for the *Trade Training Centres in Schools* program between the Commonwealth Government and the New South Wales Government.

I am pleased to advise that New South Wales agrees to the Partnership Arrangement with the Commonwealth. At this stage, however, agreement to the terms is limited to participation in Phase One of Round One and applies to the following approved NSW government school applications for Trade Training Centres: Kingsgrove North High School (\$1.2 million), Northern Beaches Secondary College: Mackellar Girls Campus (\$0.6 million), Epping Boys High School (\$1.3 million), Lithgow High School (\$3.2 million), Orange High School (\$5.3 million), Broken Hill High School (\$5.6 million), and Cambridge Park High School (\$7.1 million).

Our participation in subsequent rounds will be subject to resolution of the broader funding negotiations occurring as part of the Council of Australian Governments process.

We look forward to working with the Commonwealth to implement this initiative in a way that builds on New South Wales' strong track record in trades training, including our Trade Schools and wide range of vocational courses for secondary students.

We also look forward to participating in further discussions that will address the cost implications of the program.

Yours faithfully


(John Hatzistergos)

ATTACHMENT H

The Hon Jane Lomax-Smith MP
Member for Adelaide



**Government
of South Australia**

MC 08/1543

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and Children's Services**

Minister for Tourism

**Minister for
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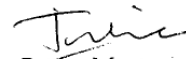
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Hon Julia Gillard MP
Deputy Prime Minister
Minister for Education
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600


Dear Deputy Prime Minister

Thank you for your letter of 5 March 2008, inviting me to approve the Partnership Arrangements between the Commonwealth Government and the State Government of South Australia in relation to the Trade Training Centres in Schools Program.

The Program complements our own 'Trade Schools for the Future' strategy and I welcome the significant investment by the Commonwealth to the skills and training agenda. I also acknowledge your commitment to a genuinely collaborative approach to the Program's development as represented by the Partnership Arrangements.

The State Government of South Australia agrees to the Partnership Arrangements with the Commonwealth, while also noting that COAG has agreed that there be consideration of the legitimate and additional financial implications for states and territories.

The Commonwealth's contribution to the establishment of a state based support unit is welcome and will ensure more effective implementation of the Program.

I look forward to working with you so that the Trade Training Centres Program achieves its full potential.

Yours sincerely


Jane Lomax-Smith
MINISTER FOR EDUCATION AND CHILDREN'S SERVICES
MINISTER FOR TOURISM
MINISTER FOR THE CITY OF ADELAIDE

8/7/08