

Policy Document



Vocational & Higher Education Reform

Rebuilding Australia's Vocational Education System

For too long, Australia has pushed the idea that university is the only path to success. This outdated mindset has left us with a massive skills shortage in trades and essential industries—affecting our economy, job opportunities, and future growth. It's time for a change.

Countries like Switzerland have nailed vocational education, with 70% of young people choosing to train on-the-job rather than sitting in lecture halls. The result? A thriving economy, lower youth unemployment, and a workforce with real-world experience. Meanwhile, Australia's vocational system has been neglected, and universities have become overcrowded, lowering standards and leaving many students with debt but no clear career path.

Our Plan for a Bold New System

By 2030, we want **70% of Australian 16-19 year-olds** to opt for vocational education (VET), with **60-80% of their learning happening on-the-job**—earning while they learn, under the direction of private sector employers. The other 30% will continue into universities to focus on fields that genuinely require academic study.

The Proposal

- **Industry-Driven Vocational Training** – Employers will lead training programs, ensuring students graduate with in-demand skills.
- **Earn While You Learn** – VET students will receive a **minimum wage of \$740.60 per week** from employers, with government support where needed.
- **Shift Essential Training Back to the Workplace** – Areas like hospitality, forestry, and more will move out of universities and back into hands-on vocational settings.
- **Cut Student Debt** – No HECS debt for vocational training! Make training contributions affordable for all.
- **Higher Standards for Universities** – With fewer students taking unnecessary degrees, universities can return to their true role—advancing knowledge, not just handing out job qualifications.

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- **Stronger Research Accountability** – Creating a transparent policy for funding of research projects - ensuring taxpayer money goes to projects that benefit society, not just academics.
- **Cap on International Students** – No more universities acting as “visa factories.” A **30% cap on foreign students** will ensure Australian universities focus on quality education first.

Why This Matters

Right now, our education system is failing both students and industries. We need more electricians, builders, plumbers, nurses, and IT specialists—real careers with real demand. Our plan ensures young Australians get the skills they need, without drowning in debt, while businesses get the workforce they require to grow.

The major parties have ignored this issue for decades. It’s time for fresh leadership and real action. If you believe in an Australia that values skills, hard work, and opportunity for all—this is the policy for you.

Vote for change. Vote for a future that works.

YOUR Vote, YOUR Voice...

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