MEDIA RELEASE

Friday 16 May 2014

OPPOSITION WRONG ON TRAINING FEES

Education Minister Adrian Piccoli has corrected the NSW Opposition on their claims about fees for vocational education and training in NSW.

The Opposition today issued a media release stating the NSW Government had increased the cost of an apprenticeship qualification “by almost four times” – a misreading of the new pricing structure for vocational education and training.

“The Opposition states the NSW Government has increased the cost of an apprenticeship qualification from $506 to $2000. They are not comparing apples with apples, and have confused the yearly cost of the qualification with the total cost of the qualification,” Mr Piccoli said.

“From 2015 students will pay a set fee per qualification, rather than per year. This is fairer as students will know exactly what their costs will be regardless of how long they take to complete their qualification.

“The current cost for apprentices is about $1,770 over 3.5 years, which is the average time an apprentice takes to complete their qualification. The new capped fee of $2000 for apprentices is only marginally higher than the current average fee, not four times as much.

“In fact, every fee quoted for 2015 by the Opposition is incorrect for people starting their first qualification.

“These are serious policy changes that the NSW Government has introduced to reform the vocational education and training sector in NSW.

“The Opposition should read these documents carefully before they start spreading misinformation to students and training providers.”

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